

HB 337

COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS (Duffey, M.) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-secondary students. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

"Eliminating the sales tax on textbooks will make the cost of obtaining a higher education more affordable, obtainable, and prove to be beneficial to the hundreds and thousands of students in Ohio," James Curtis, a student at Wright State University told the committee. According to the College Board, the annual cost of books and materials for students is \$1,168 and this cost is expected to grow if the textbook inflation rate continues, Mr. Curtis said.

Numerous polls have revealed the negative impact financial burdens, including rising textbook prices, can have on education, he explained.

Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) asked if the lower sales tax would raise demand and therefore the price of textbooks, resulting a situation where textbook prices remain high. Mr. Curtis replied that if demand increases, supply would follow.

Mr. Curtis told **Rep. Michael Henne** (R-Clayton) that increasing the use of online materials and encouraging faculty to be lenient on which editions of textbooks are required would also help to ease the financial burden of textbooks for students.

Mr. Curtis told **Rep. Craig Riedel** (R-Defiance) that the exemption would not apply to high schools that buy textbooks for College Credit Plus programs.

Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) asked if any student groups had appealed to publishers of these textbooks to inquire about the rising costs. There have been many initiatives and petitions to try to reach the publishers to little or no effect, Mr. Curtis replied.

In October, the Ohio Faculty Council voted on a resolution which established a set of approaches to reduce textbook costs for students in the state of Ohio, Dan Krane professor of biological sciences at Wright State University and chair of the Ohio Faculty Council, told the committee.

If fully implemented, the proposal would result in a savings of \$300 million annually, Mr. Krane said.

Many states already exempt textbook sales from their sales tax, giving those states a competitive advantage when trying to recruit students, he said.

Mr. Krane said he does not believe implementing a sales tax exemption would lead faculty members to choose textbooks that are not exempt for reasons regarding profit.

He told Rep. Blessing it is hard to tell how high the cost of textbooks would be if the states mentioned had not implemented sales tax exemptions. However, the sales tax exemption is third on the faculty council's list of initiatives to lower textbook costs and other proposals may be more impactful.

Mr. Krane said he is concerned about Ohio being at a competitive disadvantage to other state institutions for recruitment purposes, not necessarily for cross-border tax avoidance strategies.

He told Rep. Merrin that the exemption applies to any book required by a collegiate course syllabus in the state of Ohio. For companies like Amazon, there would need to be a mechanism to exempt the sales tax, he added.

LSC noted that if a student purchases a book online, the bill requires the student to provide the company with their address, the title of the academic course, name and address of the institution and the student's university identification card number, among other information.

(LSC Analysis)

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Twp.) asked how it would be determined if a book is a required textbook. LSC noted that the bill restricts the exemption to books assigned by a course syllabus.

Rep. Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland) asked how the bill would work to help students over time, assuming textbook price inflation continues.

Governor Kasich inspired the faculty council's set of proposals to ease the financial burden on college students, Mr. Krane said.

"The textbook industry is a broken business model," Mr. Krane told the committee. To address the situation involving publishers and used booksellers, the faculty council recommends an "inclusive access" strategy, which calls for institutions to negotiate the price of books with publishers rather than leaving this to the students, he explained.

Rep. Patmon said he is concerned that there is no mechanism to prevent the increasing price inflation. Mr. Krane said he does not believe the sales tax exemption will fully address the problem, but the "inclusive access" provision of the faculty council's approach could.

Rep. Schaffer asked if the professor knew who benefits from the increasing textbook costs. Members of university faculty are not the leading beneficiaries, Mr. Krane explained as the author of a textbook himself. The publishers and the used booksellers are the "culprits," he added.

In response to Rep. Merrin's statement that professors have a tremendous power in choosing the latest and most expensive edition of textbooks, Mr. Krane replied that in the interest of academic freedom he does not believe this right should be infringed upon. However, as a professor he has experienced the games publishers play by only including online access codes on the latest editions, which contain necessary tools for the course, Mr. Krane added.

The faculty council is working diligently to find an incentive to encourage faculty to develop alternatives to expensive books, he told the committee.

Rep. Schaffer asked if there are anti-trust concerns in situations where faculty may ban together with publishers. Mr. Krane said it would be more likely to see this from the academic institutions. Nonetheless, the inclusive access strategy has been successful in Indiana and publishers have been open to the method, he explained.

HB 351

MILITARY TAX EXEMPTION (Perales, R., Butler, J.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)**

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Chapters Military Officers Association, Colonel John McCoy said in written testimony that the proposal to delete the terms "armed forces" and replace it with "uniformed services" from the code would have no fiscal impact to the state.

The change would extend benefits to Public Health Services and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which support other military services,

are subject to deployments, and react to national emergencies among other duties, Mr. McCoy said in testimony.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under Jan. 23.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 392 **APIARY DAMAGES** (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) and Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) voted against the measure.

HB 433 **VETERINARY EDUCATION** (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Kelly (D-Cincinnati) said her bill is a common sense approach to enable veterinarians in Ohio to earn continuing education credit by performing free spaying and neutering services at a county humane society, dog pound or nonprofit.

For every hour spent providing these services, veterinarians would receive one-half hour credit of continuing education towards the annual requirement, she explained. Participating veterinarians could receive up to two hours of credit per renewal.

The goal of the bill is to responsibly curb the issue of pet overpopulation, Rep. Kelly said. The Humane Society of the United States successfully lobbied for similar bill in the state of New York in 2016, she added.

Rep. Kelly told Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) that the bill would not change the number of hours required for continuing education, rather it provides veterinarians the option to apply time spent volunteering to the credits.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan inquired if there was a need for the incentive. Co-Sponsor Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) said the goal of the bill is to address the problem of overpopulated animal shelters while providing veterinarians with an incentive to volunteer their time rather than fulfilling their continuing education credits at a luxurious conference.

Many veterinarians are already donating their time to provide free spaying and neutering services, Rep. Kelly told the committee. This bill provides a practical incentive to continue to do so.

HB 444 **FOOD OPERATION FEES** (Sweeney, M.) To require a seasonal food service operation license fee to be one-half of the license fee for a food service operation that is not a seasonal food service operation. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Martin Sweeney (D-Cleveland) said his bill will allow for a separate food license for half of the year, in addition to the standard year-long operation license to accommodate seasonal food businesses.

"This legislation will allow these businesses to save a little bit of money on their license, which in turn, could be used to hire additional seasonal help," Rep. Sweeney said. "As the seasonal help at these types of businesses are often high school students, this will help instill a strong work ethic in even more young Ohioans throughout the state."

Rep. Sweeney told **Rep. Dick Stein** (R-Norwalk) that a food truck entity could apply for the seasonal license if it operated for less than six months out of the year.

Rep. Brinkman said he liked the idea of a seasonal operating license and wondered if it could apply to all types of seasonal businesses including entities like golf courses and hockey rinks.

The sponsor replied that the mentioned entities do not need to apply for a yearly license, but that he is open to the committee's feedback and suggestions.

Rep. Sweeney told **Rep. Thomas West** (D-Canton) that if a golf course has a seasonal food business, then that food business could apply for a seasonal permit.

Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) asked if the sponsor had considered the impacts on a county with a high density of seasonal workers. Rep. Sweeney replied that he had not but would work closely with the committee and representatives from those areas to address that issue.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan inquired how the funds would be supplemented with some revenue streams being cut in half. Rep. Sweeney replied that though the revenue stream would be eliminated, the change would have a minimal impact on the general fund of most counties to the great benefit of small, seasonal businesses.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies can be found on the [committee website](#) under Jan. 23.

Government Accountability & Oversight

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 9th Hearing-All testimony)**

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 9th Hearing-All testimony)**

HB 410 **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (Seitz, B., Butler, J.)** To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to specify that the court require an advance

deposit for the filing of specified civil actions by the local authority bringing the civil action, and to modify the reporting requirements and LGF withholding that apply to subdivisions that operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Traffic safety activist Sharon Montgomery raised questions about the use of traffic cameras in interested party testimony.

One problem with red-light cameras is how they enforce legal right turns at red lights, she said. One solution is to eliminate the option at intersections with cameras.

The bill could solve procedural issues regarding traffic cameras by ensuring they go through the court system, she said.

Ms. Montgomery also raised questions about the revenue motive behind traffic cameras. She asked if the increased safety provided by the cameras balanced the revenue generated by them.

"What evidence is there that municipalities have installed cameras for revenue only?" she asked. "How do we determine motive? Why is it not okay to make money while also doing something good?"

Ms. Montgomery also cited evidence that red-light cameras reduce T-bone crashes but increase rear-end crashes, and said roundabouts have also been implemented to the same effect.

She suggested the legislature work to ensure cameras don't penalize legal actions and fix procedures for dealing with tickets, but that cities not be penalized for efforts to improve safety and generate revenue.

"Revenue challenges already exist for many, if not most, local governments," she said. "They have been asked to 'do more with less' and not to make up already existing reductions in state funding by increasing local taxes."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) asked Ms. Montgomery if municipalities were using revenue from traffic cameras on safety issues.

Ms. Montgomery said she was aware that the bill would require money to be spent on safety. Local governments, compared to the state, are often best positioned to ensure money is used effectively, she said.

Kent Scarrett, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, wrote in opposition to the bill, saying it would create unnecessary burdens for municipalities in enforcing local safety regulations.

"The bill strips cities and villages of their right to use administrative hearings for civil citation issuance via traffic camera, which is an effective and financially-responsible means of providing a hearing process - particularly for Ohio's small villages, which are often understaffed and financially strained," he wrote.

The bill also re-litigates an issue already decided by the Ohio Supreme Court, Mr. Scarrett said.

A major concern he cited was that it would require municipalities to file an annual report with the tax commissioner and the municipality's local government fund disbursement would be reduced accordingly.

"Despite the Constitutional right municipalities have to operate traffic cameras, this bill seeks to punish those municipalities who use that right by further depleting the revenues they need to ensure safety and provide local services," he said.

HB 430 **ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION** (Schaffer, T.) To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 451 **PUBLIC RECORDS** (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor **Rep. Wes Retherford** (R-Hamilton) said the bill is designed to protect victims in sexually oriented crimes, such as voyeurism, from having images submitted as evidence in a court case released as a public record.

"Ohio is a very open and transparent state and we have some of the most transparent public records laws in the country," he said. "Government transparency is key to an effective republic. However, ascertaining these photos, videos, images, etc. would have no effect on ensuring public protection through open records laws, instead would just lead to the potential of having an already violated individual become victimized again, when they should be focused on rebuilding in the aftermath."

The bill came from a conversation with police in Hamilton, who raised concerns that they would have to release compromising images if such records were requested.

"While this has not been, to the best of my knowledge, an issue yet, I believe that the proper thing for the General Assembly to do is to take a proactive approach to this issue," Rep. Retherford said. "Why should we wait for this to happen before we respond?"

HB 462 **HOSPITAL CLOSINGS** (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Small Cell Wireless: Sponsor **Rep. Sarah LaTourette** (R-Chagrin Falls) testified in an informal hearing on a bill (**HB 478**) introduced Tuesday that deals with small cell wireless technology.

The technology - low-powered antennas attached to streetlights and poles that help upgrade wireless networks - was the subject of controversy when lawmakers included language in a bill last session (SB331, 131st General Assembly) allowing communication companies to install the antennas in municipal rights-of-way.

Municipalities filed lawsuits against the provision and courts found the law violated the Ohio Constitution's single subject rule. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 31, 2017)

"Rather than merely passing the same language as a standalone bill, we asked the wireless industry and the municipalities to see if they could resolve their differences, so we can pass a

law that will remove the uncertainty caused by the litigation and spur the investment and innovation as was originally intended," Rep. LaTourette said.

The bill creates uniform fees - a \$250 application fee for request and \$200 annual charge to attach to a municipally owned or controlled pole - and a process for obtaining permits. It also lays out approaches for municipalities to protect the aesthetic character of the right-of-way.

(LSC analysis)

Rep. LaTourette, who is sponsoring the bill alongside **Rep. Ryan Smith** (R-Bidwell), said the language stems from negotiations over the past three months with municipal officials, city engineers and representatives of the wireless industry.

"This was truly a collaborative effort and the participants should be commended for not only their hard work but also their willingness to negotiate a solution," she said. "The bill before you balances the industry's need to deploy small cells in a timely manner with municipalities' legitimate interest in protecting the aesthetic character of the public way."

Criminal Justice

HB 349 **POLICE ANIMALS (LaTourette, S.)** To increase the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse and to include search and rescue dogs and horses in the prohibition against assaulting or harassing a police animal. **(CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)**

Before hearing testimony, the panel accepted a **substitute bill** offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) to restore existing penalties for assault on a police animal and to set the same penalties for assault on search and rescue animals. **(Comp doc)**

In proponent testimony, Dr. Robert Davis said search and rescue dogs and horses oftentimes encounter the same types of interference as experienced by police dogs and horses.

"Sometimes SAR teams enter private property either unknowingly or accompanied by law enforcement as part of the investigation," he said. "Although distinguishably marked, SAR animals may be subject to various actions by hostile property owners. It may also be the case that the subject of the search was not initially known to be a criminal actor and, when the SAR dog or horse makes contact with the subject, there is potential for harm."

Alice Ault of Miami Valley Mounted Search and Rescue said in proponent testimony that attacks on SAR animals have a high probability of resulting in serious injuries to humans.

"Injury occurs to the equestrian as the result of the equine falling onto the equestrian after it has been violently attacked," she said "This is one of the reasons horsemanship has been determined to be the most dangerous sport in the sports world. Some SAR equine can weigh more than twelve hundred pounds. Because of this, an equine falling onto a rider, as the result of a violent attack, can result in a multitude of traumatic injuries; the most serious, being paralysis or death."

Janelle Hideg of the Midwest K9 Search Unit also provided proponent testimony.

The panel also received written proponent testimony from Jerry Whaley of the Buckeye Emergency Response Training School.

HB 405 **COUNTERFEITING (Perales, R.)** To create the offense of counterfeiting and to include counterfeiting within the definition of "corrupt activity" under the

Corrupt Activities Law. (**REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony)**; 3rd Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

The bill was **amended** by Rep. Rezabek to clarify that someone in possession of five or more access devices faces up to a third-degree felony charge.

HB 409 **VETERAN TREATMENT (Butler, J., Perales, R.)** To permit courts to create veterans treatment courts and to allow courts to divert certain criminal defendants to participate in veterans treatment court. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge Dennis Adkins said the need for the legislation has drastically increased since Sept. 11, 2001.

During the War on Terror, he said, some veterans have been deployed overseas as many as nine times.

"Some are changed more than others. Some suffer from serious problems," Judge Adkins said.

Judge Adkins created a veterans' treatment court in 2013. He said it has proven to be successful with a lower recidivism rate than other specialized dockets.

"The numbers speak for themselves. We have been very successful," he said.

HB 439 **BAIL DETERMINATIONS (Dever, J., Ginter, T.)** To require courts to use the results of a validated risk assessment tool in bail determinations; to allow nonmonetary bail to be set; to require courts to collect certain data on bail, pretrial release, and sentencing; and to require the state Criminal Sentencing Commission to create a list of validated risk assessment tools and monitor the policies and procedures of courts in setting bail and utilizing pretrial supervision services. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent & interested party)

HB 455 **DRUG TRAFFICKING (Wiggam, S.)** To provide that in determining the amount of cocaine for trafficking offenses, it also includes a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing cocaine, to increase penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses, and to name this act the Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Under the measure, individuals charged with trafficking heroin, fentanyl, cocaine or other Scheduled I or II drugs would be charged with at least a third-degree felony that includes mandatory prison time.

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear of the law, and Ohio will draw a clear distinction in criminal penalties between trafficking and simply using illegal drugs," **Rep. Scott Wiggam** (R-Wooster) said in sponsor testimony.

Rep. Wiggam said that since 2012, Ohio has reduced the incarceration of drug traffickers by 4%, while at the same time, unintentional overdose deaths have increased by 212%.

"We are in a battle for the future of Ohio," he said. "Without deterring drugs from entering and being produced in the state, we are failing those who are currently addicted, and we are jeopardizing our state's future."

Rep. Rezabek questioned the impact the bill would have on the state's already overcrowded prison system, adding he has heard the figure could be as many as 8,000 beds - the equivalent of three maximum security prisons.

Rep. Wiggam disputed the figure, saying the deterrence impact could lead to a much smaller impact.

Rep. Rezabek also questioned whether the bill addresses the definition of trafficking, noting that some users carry scales to ensure that they are not being ripped off when purchasing drugs.

Rep. Wiggam said the bill currently does not address that issue, but he would be open to looking further into the matter.

HB 457 **DRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.)** To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a parolee who fails a drug test for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said the legislation was spurred by Scottie Childers, who failed a drug test during a probation check-in and died of an overdose four hours later.

"Scottie's mother, Linda Chambers, was shocked that her son was able to walk out after testing positive. In this case, had Scottie been sent to jail, it would have saved his life," he said in sponsor testimony. "This bill will help protect and save the lives of individuals afflicted with substance abuse."

The bill would require individuals subject to community control or parole sanctions to be immediately sent to jail or a treatment facility if they test positive for heroin, fentanyl or carfentanil.

"I completely agree that those struggling with substance abuse should be treated as addicts who need treatment, and not as criminals. However, in current reality, we simply do not have enough residential treatment facilities for those who need it," he said.

"While we in the General Assembly must address that issue, we also must face where we are today in Ohio and the challenges that we are up against. While we are working on getting more treatment facilities, there has to be somewhere for individuals afflicted with substance abuse to go, and jail is the safest place for them."

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) questioned why cocaine is not included in the bill.

Rep. Antani said he was trying to narrowly tailor the bill to lessen the impact on county jails. He added that the original charge has to have involved one of the drugs named in the bill.

HB 461 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Fedor, T., Galonski, T.)** To require a juvenile court to hold a delinquency complaint in abeyance if the court has reason to believe that the act charged might be prostitution related or that the child might be a victim of human trafficking and to provide that the same elements for the offense of trafficking in persons that apply to a victim under the age of sixteen also apply to a victim who is age sixteen or seventeen. **(SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

The bill was pulled from the agenda at the sponsor's request.

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 23.
Education & Career Readiness

HB 224 **SCHOOL FOODS (Ingram, C.)** To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging.
(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent & Interested party)

Rachel Tilford, food service director of Little Miami Schools and legislative chairperson for the School Nutrition Association of Ohio, said allowing food-sharing tables can benefit students who are food insecure.

However, the Department of Health currently requires any food remaining on sharing tables at the end of the day to be discarded, even if proper procedures are in place to safely store the food and keep it at proper temperatures.

Having to throw that food away results in about \$3,000 of waste annually in her district of 5,000 students alone, Ms. Tilford said.

"It is difficult to throw perfect good food in a garbage can. Try opening your refrigerator and tossing several dollars' worth of food into the trash," she said. "Staff have expressed concern that if people in our conservative community ever witnesses such waste that our department would be viewed negatively for wasting taxpayers' money and probably wind up as a scandalous media story."

She told Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) that many schools face shortfalls in their food service budgets and use money from the general fund used for educational purposes to provide lunches.

While schools lose lunch profits on calamity days, they typically don't lose product because district food service workers can go to schools and freeze any items that won't keep while school is called off, Ms. Tilford said in response to a question from **Rep. Dan Ramos** (D-Lorain).

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) questioned how schools keep cold items such as milk and yogurt at a safe temperature after they've been served. The witness said students typically don't have the items on their lunch trays for more than 15 minutes and then they're placed in insulated or temperature controlled storage that's monitored by a thermometer.

Jessica Shelly, food service director for Cincinnati Public Schools, also submitted written testimony in support of the bill. She said the school throws out an estimated \$500,000 in products each year that are paid for by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

HB 438 **ESC BOARDS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.)** To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards and to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Joint sponsor, **Rep. Steve Hambley** (R-Brunswick) said the bill aims to "increase member schools' participation in ESC governance and return choice to school districts whose hands were tied under previous law changes.

The measure allows the governing board of any single county ESC to add appointed members who represent client school districts of the service center that are not otherwise represented on the board, he said. Multi-county ESCs already have this ability.

It also permits a local school district to sever its territory from one ESC and annex that territory to an adjacent ESC under certain conditions, joint sponsor **Rep. Darrell Kick** (R-Loudonville) said.

"Initial indications are that the only affected school districts would be Black River Local School District, and the five school districts in Sandusky County," he said, noting that the provision is permissive.

Responding to questions from the committee, Rep. Hambley said the Ohio Educational Service Center Association is supportive of the bill, which wouldn't allow appointed members to outnumber elected officials on boards.

Currently in the Black River Local School District, residents elect board members to an ESC they don't receive services from, which is what the bill is attempting to remedy, he said.

HB 442 **SCHOOL ATHLETICS (Antani, N.)** To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who attends an elementary or secondary school in Ohio and holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as Ohio residents.
(**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Students who come to America on F-1 visas don't get a complete high school experience because they're currently not allowed to play sports, sponsoring Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said.

"The Ohio High School Athletic Association and its members - around 85% of which are public high schools, paid for by taxpayers - arbitrarily decided several years ago that some international students, like exchange students who are here for a year on a J-1 visa, may play sports, but others, who may be here for four years on an F-1 visa, may not participate unless they meet specific criteria that are not applicable to the vast majority of students who receive an F-1 visa," he said.

He pointed to a 2015 comment from the OHSSA commissioner, who said that sports teach students life lessons, such as teamwork and commitment.

"Why would we want to deny a segment of students attending high school in Ohio from having these valuable experiences, just because of where they were born and the type of visa they have to legally attend school here?" Rep. Antani asked. "It is not something that our state government should let happen, especially when such rules are made by our public schools."

Rep. Ramos and Rep. Patterson raised concerns about recruiting athletes if the bill were to be approved.

"There has been concern that it's possible that students like this might congregate, some might use the term recruitment, in some particular schools and thus instead of a level playing field...it makes it harder for schools to compete," Rep. Patterson said.

Rep. Antani said it doesn't seem likely that schools would attempt to recruit students and there are OSHAA penalties in place for those that are caught doing so.

He suggested that private schools would only accept individuals who meet certain academic standards, which would make recruiting even more difficult.

By all accounts, students with J-1 visas, who are typically short-term foreign exchange students, aren't currently recruited despite being permitted to play OSHAA sports, Rep. Antani added.

HCR 11 **EDUCATION PLAN (Gavarone, T.)** To approve Ohio's state education plan for implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Public Utilities

HB 143 **ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.)** To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for kilowatt-hour tax purposes. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Robert Sprague's bill would preserve the previously-granted exemption of self-generators from the kilowatt-hour tax when it comes to power distribution, according to the sponsor.

The bill, he argued, is necessary to ensure exemptions spelled out in a 2001 law are properly applied by the Ohio Department of Taxation. That bill (SB3, 123rd General Assembly) exempted self-generators from the tax but the sponsor said that in recent years, ODT has begun levying the tax on some entities that should qualify as self-generators.

"This specific issue has to do with the interpretation of language regarding the tax on the distribution of energy over the grid," he said. "Since 'self-generator' is not specifically defined under Ohio's tax code, the Ohio Department of Taxation is treating certain entities that fit under the Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.01 definition of a 'self-generator' as electric distribution companies."

A substitute version of the bill is forthcoming after continued talks with ODT and other parties, Rep. Sprague (R-Findlay) said.

"My hope is we will soon reach a consensus on the language issues, but, due to certain views on the original principle of the exemption, there will still be opposition," Rep. Sprague said. "My intention was and is not to address the principle of whether the exemption is right or wrong; it is to clarify the intentions of Senate Bill 3 from the 123rd General Assembly."

The sponsor told **Rep. Rick Perales** (R-Beavercreek) that "a lot of resistance" has been aired in interested party meetings over whether justification for the exemptions exists. "We're really not going to address that particular issue of the exemption," he said of the philosophical debate.

HB 247 **UTILITY LAW (Romanchuk, M.)** To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged, to eliminate electric security plans and require all electric standard service offers to be delivered through market-rate offers, and to strengthen corporate separation requirements. (CONTINUED; 6th Hearing-All testimony)

Proponents continued pressing House lawmakers to support a bill to ban electric security plans over the objections of utility companies.

Tuesday marked the sixth hearing of the bill from **Rep. Mark Romanchuk** (R-Mansfield) which has been praised by consumer advocates as a way to bypass above-market riders levied on customers. But utilities remain staunchly opposed, arguing previously that MROs are less flexible and reduce competition. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, December 12, 2017**) Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston reiterated his support for the bill, echoing remarks he's made before in front of the committee. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, November 14, 2017**)

"In short, you would be solving a lot of problems and doing a lot of good for Ohioans by reforming the 2008 law to eliminate electric security plans," Mr. Weston argued.

Ned Hill, an Ohio State University economist, agreed, criticizing the deal-making process in which utilities secure interested party support for ESPs through settlement agreement "carve outs."

"In a market-based economy markets should operate for the benefit of consumers, not for the benefit of companies," he said. "House Bill 247 will ensure that this remains true for electricity customers, and not just the few that are favored in special interest carve-outs in ESPs."

Barry Matchett, director of external affairs for NRG Energy, also voiced support for the bill, which he said contains "worthy policy goals" for Ohio consumers and large energy users.

"Let me also be clear that this is a compromise bill from the start," Mr. Matchett said. "I will admit there were many proposed items that my own company would have liked to have seen included in this legislation. But what you have before you is a solid base of reforms to protect and preserve the robust and developing energy market here in Ohio primarily to the benefit of customers."

Micah Derry, state director for Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, submitted written interested party testimony stating the legislation is a "natural step on the heels" of a House-passed bill to rework the renewable energy standards (**HB 114**).

"As it relates to HB247, we think the steps taken in the legislation to eliminate the Electricity Security Plans (ESP) are an encouraging provision, as this would largely preclude the ability of utilities to charge above-market rates to consumers," Mr. Derry wrote.

"It would also open the way for more pro-consumer competitive outcomes through the default adoption of the Market-Rate Offer (MRO) ratemaking mechanism, which is intrinsically competitive since it sets rates through a competitive bidding process," he continued.

HB 402 **TELEPHONE REGULATION (Hill, B.)** To revise state regulation of telephone companies. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the **committee's website** under Jan. 23.

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, January 23, 2018

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

HB 145 **CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT** (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.) To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (**REPORTED-AMENDED**; 4th Hearing -All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted unanimously to report the bill after accepting two amendments. The first amendment, offered by Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), deals with the potential of a move of Medicaid long-term services and supports into managed care. That proposal was hotly debated in the budget, with the General Assembly putting a limit on the administration's plan to implement the move, and Gov. John Kasich vetoing the language. The issue was resolved when the Kasich administration announced it would not begin the move.

The amendment states that the General Assembly would have the final say in whether Medicaid can move long-term care services to managed care, said Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton).

The other amendment includes language considered but tabled in December dealing with the move of the regulation of dieticians and respiratory care providers to the State Medical Board. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 5, 2017)

HB 286 **PALLIATIVE CARE** (LaTourette, S.) To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor & Possible amendments)

The committee accepted an amendment offered by Sen. Burke that adds exercise physiologists to list of experts that can be appointed to the interdisciplinary council, clarifies what non-hospice palliative care candidates may receive the service from a hospice facility, and makes technical corrections.

Sponsor Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) said the bill would create an interdisciplinary council and education program to raise awareness about palliative care. Palliative care, in which a patient's quality of life is improved by reducing symptoms, pain and stress by giving them more control, is appropriate at any point in an illness, not just at the end of life.

"Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness, but when palliative care is mentioned many people do instantly think of 'hospice care' and the

conversation stops," she said. "Because of this, palliative care is drastically and disappointingly underutilized in our state."

The council would include members from fields that work closely with palliative care recipients, and would serve as an advisory council to the Department of Health," Rep. LaTourette said. "The bill also creates an education program to inform patients and medical providers about the care."

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) asked what the council's main objective would be.

The sponsor said education is important, because if people don't know about palliative care, they won't take advantage of it. The council would also be required to submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

HB 50 **EBT CARDS** (**Schaffer, T.**) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 110 **HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION** (**Tavares, C.**) To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The bill would require certain health care professionals to wear an identification card, badge or similar device, including a photograph, when providing care, sponsor **Sen. Charleta B. Tavares** (D-Columbus) said. The badge would be required to include the person's licensure status and staff position.

"Without this legislation it is all too easy for patients to confuse who is and is not a licensed health care professional," she said. "It is also very easy for unlicensed or unqualified individuals to administer care to unaware patients. The misrepresentation of the level of training held by health care professionals is dangerous and can result in the loss of a loved one's life."

The sponsor detailed the story of a patient in South Carolina who ultimately died from complications from a pain reliever after surgery and whose mother repeatedly asked for a veteran physician at the hospital to examine him, but was only met by residents.

"It is vital that health care professionals are required to wear identification of who they are and what their level of training is in order to insure the utmost level of transparency between patients and health professionals," she said.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) asked the sponsor if she has checked with hospitals to see if it is already in practice.

Sen. Tavares said she didn't know how common of a practice it is, particularly in smaller hospital systems and practices.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said many people wear badges backwards, and suggested that the requirement be that the name and status be visible.

That's the intent of the bill, Sen. Tavares said, but it could be made explicit in the bill.

SB 192 **AWARENESS WEEK** (**Tavares, C.**) To designate the last week of September as "Diaper Need Awareness Week." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Tavares said her bill would designate the final week of September as Diaper Need Awareness Week, focusing on the need by low-income families of diapers and to rally support for diaper bank programs.

"Children in low-income families are at the greatest risk of suffering the effects of diaper need because many families cannot afford diapers," she said. "Current public support programs help some, but young children have additional needs necessary to build a strong foundation for healthy growth. More awareness needs to be brought to such a critical but oftentimes overlooked necessity for Ohio families."

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the only federal program that can cover diapers, and families are often forced to choose between diapers and other services TANF covers, such as heat, electric, rent, clothing and transportation, Sen. Tavares said.

"This bill is simply meant to bring attention to this important need and to encourage those of us with a little extra to donate to the Diaper Banks in our communities or to start them," she said.

Insurance & Financial Institutions

HB 362 **HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.)** To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Mark Atkeson, executive director of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System, said the bill would help the pension fund ensure continued solvency.

The bill would return the minimum retirement age to 52 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2020, calculate pension benefits for off-duty disabilities based on a minimum 12-year service benefit instead of 20 years, and eliminate the automatic 50% unfunded survivor benefit, creating a set amount of \$900, increasing annually as the board determines.

The measure would also provide no survivor benefits for those who marry after retirement.

"These changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, and when these changes are fully realized, they will have a compounding cumulative effect on reducing our unfunded liabilities," he said. "In addition, these are considered best practices and are consistent with other similar systems."

Robert Booker, president of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, said the changes are needed to ensure the system's long-term health.

"Like with other pension systems, our system continues to face actuarial assumption changes that have not been seen before," he said. "Probably, the most significant change was the reduction of the investment assumed rate of return. These assumption changes increase the unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities of a pension system. The legislative changes the HPRS board has approved are necessary and will decrease the amortization period of the system's unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, thus improving its solvency."

In written testimony, HPRS Board member Matt Them voiced support for the proposal.

"I realize no one wants to see any change in benefits, myself included, but this legislation is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency," he said. "Thus, in the long-run, a solvent and well-funded system will benefit all of us individually."


Chairman **Sen. Jay Hottinger** (R-Newark) said he hopes to vote the bill out of the committee next week.

SB 227 **HEALTH PLAN CLAIMS (Huffman, M.)** To require health plan issuers to release certain claim information to group plan policyholders. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)**
Government Oversight & Reform

SJR 5 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (Huffman, M.)** To establish a process for congressional redistricting. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-All testimony)**

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, January 24

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB 191 **NURSE ANESTHETISTS** (Gonzales, A.) Regarding the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists. (3rd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 24 **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS** (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 292 **OHIO RESIDENCY** (Scherer, G.) To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for income tax purposes. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SJR 5 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING** (Huffman, M.) To establish a process for congressional redistricting. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

- **Presentation by Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Steven M. Click on the Ohio ASSIST (Aiding Safety Services with Incident Survival Techniques) Program**

HB 459 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION** (Henne, M.) To allow groups of employers to be granted status as a self-insuring employer for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 416 **HEALTH SERVICE PRICES** (Huffman, S.) Regarding the provision of cost estimates for scheduled health care services and health care services requiring insurer preauthorization. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- HB 293** **DRIVER'S LICENSES** (Scherer, G., Sheehy, M.) To require a person to hold a temporary instruction permit for one year before obtaining a probationary driver's license and to alter the time periods during which the holder of a temporary instruction permit or probationary driver's license is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle without being accompanied by a parent or guardian. (3rd Hearing-Proponent & opponent-Possible substitute)
- HB 350** **ROAD NAMING** (Craig, H.) To designate a portion of State Route 317 in Franklin County as the "Patrolman Dane L. Rowe Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 421** **VEHICLE TITLES** (Patterson, J., Becker, J.) To provide that when a certificate of title is issued for a motor vehicle, the owner may request that the certificate indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica vehicle. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 20** **VEHICLE CRASHES** (Schaffer, T.) To urge Congress to encourage the Administrator of the FMCSA to change the crash indicator BASIC regulation standards to consider only crashes in which the driver was at fault for the crash. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 400** **BRIDGE NAMING** (Holmes, G.) To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of State Route 169 in Trumbull County, as the "World War I and World War II Veterans Memorial Bridge." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 401** **BRIDGE NAMING** (Holmes, G.) To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of United States Route 422 in Girard, as the "Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 388** **LICENSE PLATE** (Sykes, E., Roegner, K.) To create the "Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens" license plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

- HB 58** **CURSIVE HANDWRITING** (Brenner, A., Slaby, M.) To require instruction in cursive handwriting. (6th Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 449** **SPONSOR RATINGS** (Rogers, J., Patterson, J.) To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 12:15 p.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Civil Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

HB 407 ■ **ESTATE LAW** (Dever, J., Seitz, B.) To abolish the estate by dower. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
HB 446 ■ **POWER OF ATTORNEY** (Rogers, J., Seitz, B.) Relative to the acceptance of an acknowledged power of attorney. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 116, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HR 318 ■ **ARMED FORCES** (Dever, J.) To urge the President and Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense, to authorize the recruitment of individuals with disabilities for service in the Armed Forces of the United States. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 434 ■ **LICENSE PLATES** (Sweeney, M., Perales, R.) To create the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 313, 2:30 p.m. or after session

- 2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony on bill from Rep. Schuring on redistricting

HB 87 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 478 ■ **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 382 ■ **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (10th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR 4 ■ **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (10th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 462 ■ **HOSPITAL CLOSINGS** (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

- HB 301** **CONSENT DECREES** (Butler, J.) To require the approval of the General Assembly for a state agency to agree to a consent decree or court-approved settlement agreement that would alter or prohibit the enforcement of a law of this state. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 223** **USED TIRES** (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 127** **WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES** (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Community & Family Advancement** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022**), Rm. 114, 3 p.m. or after session
- HB 427** **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** (Young, R.) To require the Department of Health to publish monthly drug overdose death information for each county, to create grant programs to support faith-based substance abuse services, to authorize an income tax deduction for physicians providing such services for free, and to allocate funds and make an appropriation for the grant programs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)
- HB 366** **CHILD SUPPORT** (Gavarone, T.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- House Federalism & Interstate Relations** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Roegner, K., 466-1177**), Rm. 115, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 253** **CONCEALED WEAPONS** (Householder, L., Lanese, L.) To permit law enforcement officers to carry firearms off duty in places otherwise prohibited for concealed handgun licensees. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- House State & Local Government** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041**), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 415** **ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** (Greenspan, D., Ryan, S.) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 169** **HEALTH INSURANCE** (Merrin, D.) To require, with respect to insurance contracted for or provided by the Department of Administrative Services, an individual who is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement to pay the same percentage of the premium for vision, dental, or life insurance as the individual pays for health insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 298** **SICK DAYS** (Merrin, D.) To make changes with respect to the number of sick days provided to public employees. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 314** **SAFETY TAX CREDIT** (Schaffer, T.) To allow an income tax credit for law enforcement officials who purchase safety or protective items to be used in the course of official law enforcement activities. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 453** **CHARTER HOSPITALS** (Greenspan, D.) To require that all rights and interests in discoveries, inventions, or patents made by employees using charter county hospital facilities are the property of that charter county hospital. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 454** **CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 299** **DRUG USE** (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 15** **YEAR DESIGNATION** (O'Brien, S., Wilson, S.) To designate 2018 as 'Ohio's Year of the Trails.' (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

Arts Council, 33rd Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m. (The Finance Committee meets previously at 9:30 a.m. and the Executive Committee meets at noon or immediately following the board meeting.)

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 1:30 p.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Oil and Gas Association and Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund news conference call on orphan well legislation, 9:30 a.m.

Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee, Rm. 1960, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) and Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) and Ohio Pharmacists' Association news conference on prescription drug legislation, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) & Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$5,000, Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500 to Friends of Ryan Smith and Friends of Dave Greenspan RSVP required to Taylor at 740.395.7656 or Taylor@smithforohio.com)

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Janine Boyd. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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- [GOP, Dems Pursue Redistricting Deal; Critics Blast SJR5 in Hearing](#)
- [ECOT Appeals Shutdown; Hearing Officer Backs ODE Again; Legislators Criticize Agency](#)
- [Lawmakers Aim to Place 'Right-to-Work' Measures on 2020 Ballot](#)
- [OCC, OSU Economist Slam Electric Security Plans, Praise HB247](#)
- [Witnesses Tell Committee Bail Reform Is Needed](#)
- [Portman Addresses Reopening of Government, Reauthorization of CHIP, Imposition of Tariffs](#)
- [Trooper's Search of Detained Suspect's Purse Unconstitutional](#)
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NEWS

Groups rally to fight Ohio senator's rival redistricting plan (Associated Press, 1/24/2018)

Lawyers to Ohio court: Juries, not judges, should impose death sentences (Associated Press, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers ax money proposed for film campus, Wasson Way in list to GOP leaders (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/24/2018)

'Right to work' could be on the ballot in Ohio with support from lawmakers (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Ohio among northern states to lose another U.S. House seat after next census - Out of Line: Impact 2017 and Beyond (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Should ECOT founder pay money back faster? State Auditor Dave Yost says yes while school floats new plan (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Columbus lawmaker's proposal would allow physician-assisted suicide in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Democrats tussle over ECOT campaign money, but GOP got far more (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Ex-Tiberi aide to join DeWine's staff (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers take baby steps toward redistricting compromise (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Portman says killing NAFTA would be mistake (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Right-to-work would help Ohio workers, GOP lawmakers say (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

'On its last legs': Why election boards are seeking new voting machines (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Doctor-assisted suicide bill coming to Ohio Statehouse (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Ohio looking to change bail system, focusing less on money (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Portman warns Trump: killing NAFTA will kill jobs in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Thousands head back to work at Wright-Patt as shutdown ends (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers argue ECOT closing preventable (Toledo Blade, 1/24/2018)

EDITORIALS

A fleeting moment of compromise ends the government shutdown despite "No" votes from three Ohio Democrats: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Scientists leading algae fight (Toledo Blade, 1/24/2018)

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HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/24/2018



STATE MIGHT SEEK \$19M MORE BACK FROM CLOSED CHARTER E-SCHOOL

The giant Ohio online charter school that abruptly closed mid-school-year lost another round of its multifaceted battle with the state over funding but said Tuesday that it's still fighting to reopen, even as many of its 12,000 students are looking for new schools.

LAWYERS: JURIES, NOT JUDGES, SHOULD IMPOSE DEATH SENTENCES

Ohio's capital punishment law is unconstitutional because judges, not juries, impose death sentences in contrast to the 6th Amendment right to a jury trial, lawyers for a convicted killer argued before the state Supreme Court on Tuesday.



DEMOCRATS TUSSLE OVER ECOT CAMPAIGN MONEY, BUT GOP GOT FAR MORE

As Ohio's big bet on a big online charter school fizzles, candidates are pointing fingers over the \$2.1 million in campaign money the school's operator has doled out during the past two decades.

COLUMBUS LAWMAKER'S PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN OHIO

Lisa Vigil Schattinger wants terminally ill Ohioans to have the option chosen by her stepfather, who said his piece and then made peace with impending death from bone marrow cancer.

GOP LAWMAKERS, CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE, DEFEND ECOT; STATE SAYS SCHOOL PRIORITIZED PROFIT

Arguing that that Gov. John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Education should have kept ECOT open through the end of the school year, a handful of Republican lawmakers Tuesday defended the school and urged changes to stop a future shutdown in the middle of the school year.

RIGHT-TO-WORK WOULD HELP OHIO WORKERS, GOP LAWMAKERS SAY

A pair of Republican lawmakers said their proposal to put six right-to-work amendments on the 2020 ballot would help Ohio workers.

LAWMAKERS TAKE BABY STEPS TOWARD REDISTRICTING COMPROMISE

A whiff of progress on congressional redistricting could be permeating the Statehouse.

O'NEILL TELLS DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO VET HIM AFTER PAYING OFF TAX LIENS

Gubernatorial candidate William M. O'Neill is asking the Ohio Democratic Party to vet him after paying \$4,361 in past-due state income taxes.

ECOT APPEALS SPONSOR'S DECISION THAT SHUT SCHOOL

Shuttered online giant ECOT is not giving up efforts to keep the school open through the end of the school year.

EX-TIBERI AIDE TO JOIN DEWINE'S STAFF

Breann Gonzalez, a longtime aide to Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Genoa Township, is joining the staff of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

EDITORIAL: OHIOANS WANT REAL REDISTRICTING REFORM

Ohio House Republicans' proposed congressional boundary-drawing "reform" is a cynical exercise in damage control.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

MIAMI TWP. TRUSTEE: STATE WAGE LAW 'DISCRIMINATORY,' WASTING MILLIONS

A Miami Twp. trustee is asking the state to pay for the costs of what he called an unfunded mandate that is "most discriminatory" and that he said wastes millions of dollars across Ohio.

DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL COMING TO OHIO STATEHOUSE

Nearly three decades after Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian pushed doctor-assisted suicide into the national spotlight, state Sen. Charleta Tavares says it's time that Ohio legalize the practice with strict safeguards in place.

ECOT APPEALS IN FIGHT TO STAY OPEN; EMAILS SHOW STATE FIGHT

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow on Tuesday announced it is appealing the decision of its sponsor, the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, to close the embattled online school.

OHIO LOOKING TO CHANGE BAIL SYSTEM, FOCUSING LESS ON MONEY

The ACLU of Ohio says a plan to shift courts away from using cash-bail systems is a good start but doesn't go far enough to fix the broken system.

'ON ITS LAST LEGS': WHY ELECTION BOARDS ARE SEEKING NEW VOTING MACHINES

Voting equipment in many Ohio counties, including Butler County, is becoming obsolete as replacement parts are more difficult to obtain and software continues to age.

THE PLAIN DEALER

'RIGHT TO WORK' COULD BE ON THE BALLOT IN OHIO WITH SUPPORT FROM LAWMAKERS

Supporters of "right to work" legislation are taking a different route to enact changes critics say would unnecessarily weaken unions in Ohio.

SHOULD ECOT FOUNDER PAY MONEY BACK FASTER? STATE AUDITOR DAVE YOST SAYS YES WHILE SCHOOL FLOATS NEW PLAN

ECOT founder William Lager and two companies he owns have paid more than \$5 million back toward the \$80 million enrollment and state aid fight the online charter school is having with the state.

OHIO AMONG NORTHERN STATES TO LOSE ANOTHER U.S. HOUSE SEAT AFTER NEXT CENSUS - OUT OF LINE: IMPACT 2017 AND BEYOND

Ohio is on target to lose another congressional seat after the 2020 census, making it even more important that the state gets it right in deciding how to reform the way its congressional districts are drawn.

THE ENQUIRER

IN OHIO, NO ONE WANTS GOV. JOHN KASICH'S ENDORSEMENT - INCLUDING HIS FORMER RUNNING MATE WHO HAS IT

In the Republican primary for Ohio governor, no one apparently wants Gov. John Kasich's endorsement - including the candidate who has it.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

LAWMAKERS ARGUE ECOT CLOSING PREVENTABLE

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West board voted Tuesday night to accept a court-supervised master to oversee the winding down of the defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 5:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/25/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/25/2018



OHIO PART OF STUDY TO REDUCE CHILD WELFARE WORKERS TURNOVER

Officials say Ohio is joining a national research project to reduce turnover among caseworkers in the child welfare field.



KASICH DISPUTES TAYLOR'S ASSERTION THEY HAVEN'T TALKED IN A YEAR

The office of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and her own appointment calendar, dispute Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's assertion that she has not talked to the governor in more than a year.

OHIO LAWMAKERS GOING AFTER PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

When Ohioans go to pharmacists for their prescriptions, they generally assume they'll be told the truth about the costs of their medicines.

NO REDISTRICTING VOTE WITHOUT CITIZENS COALITION SUPPORT, SENATE PRESIDENT SAYS

Unless a citizens coalition agrees with a legislative plan to revamp Ohio's congressional redistricting process, Senate President Larry Obhof said the Senate won't vote on the measure.

CLINTONVILLE ARCHITECT BECOMES LATEST TO RUN FOR TIBERI'S OLD SEAT

Yet another Republican has entered the race to replace Rep. Pat Tiberi.

CORDRAY WANTS TO BRING FIGHT FOR CONSUMERS TO OHIO

Richard Cordray just finished a five-year stint running the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but on Wednesday he said he is starting his fight for consumers in Ohio.

STATE LAWMAKERS VOTE TO REGULATE 'E-BIKES'

Ohio is one of just 20 states that doesn't regulate electric bicycles, but that might be changing with new legislation.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

NEW BILL CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN DRUG PRICES

A consumer protection bill introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives this week aims to increase transparency in prescription drug pricing.

RIDING A SKATEBOARD WHILE HOLDING A CAR COULD BECOME ILLEGAL IN OHIO

Grabbing the bumper or side of a moving car and hitching a ride while on a skateboard is not specifically illegal in Ohio — something some state lawmakers want to change.

TOOL WILL ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW THE MONEY IN OHIO POLITICS

If you want to know what's going on in politics, the old adage is: follow the money.

THE PLAIN DEALER

ECOT STUDENTS RUSHING TO OTHER E-SCHOOLS BUT TRICKLING BACK TO DISTRICTS

Students from the just-closed ECOT online charter school have started to land in school districts and other charters, but the numbers remain low and it's too early to tell how well the process is working.

OHIO PAC SUPPORTING OHIO WOMEN CANDIDATES RAISES \$750,000

The Matriots, a statewide PAC supporting female candidates, started last year when a small group of Columbus-area neighbors, friends and acquaintances stood together at the Women's March on Washington and felt something big.

TALK IT OUT: SHOULD OHIO BECOME A 'RIGHT TO WORK' STATE?

Republican state Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel have proposed a package of six constitutional amendments targeting how unions operate and are funded in Ohio.

THE BLADE (One of America's Great Newspapers)

VOTE DELAYED ON GOP REMAP PLAN

Senate Republicans on Wednesday delayed a vote on changes to the inherently political process by which Ohio redraws congressional districts.

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NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court sides with FirstEnergy in customer refund ruling
(Akron Beacon Journal, 1/25/2018)

GOP gov race: No one wants Kasich's endorsement (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

= A

In Ohio, lives altered a year into Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

Ohio PAC supporting Ohio women candidates raises \$750,000 (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Powerful opioids are easily sold through the Internet and shipped in the mail, investigation finds (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Campaign cash: Who got how much from ECOT (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Cordray wants to bring fight for consumers to Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Kasich disputes Taylor's assertion they haven't talked in a year (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

No redistricting vote without citizens coalition support, Senate president says (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

State lawmakers vote to regulate "e-bikes" (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio's tobacco prevention efforts get mostly Fs (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Riding a skateboard while holding a car could become illegal in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Tool will allow the public to follow the money in Ohio politics (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

High court: State's FirstEnergy refund order was improper (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

Vote delayed on GOP remap plan (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: CHIP breaks free from D.C. gridlock (Canton Repository, 1/25/2018)

Editorial: Ohioans want real redistricting reform (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

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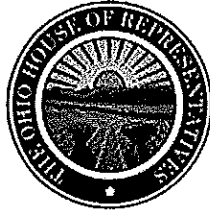
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From: Ohio House Republican Communications
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Subject: GOP Week in Review 1/22/18 – 1/28/18



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

1/22/18 – 1/28/18

Farm and Dairy: Ohio Cattlemen's Association honors family farms

Ohio Rep. Brian Hill received the association's Industry Service Award. Hill, a longtime association member, raises beef cattle on his family farm in Muskingum County, and is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives, after serving as a county commissioner for more than six years. ... "It's easy to go to Columbus to fight on your behalf," Hill told the cattlemen Saturday night.

Columbus Dispatch: State lawmakers vote to regulate 'e-bikes'

House Bill 250, introduced by Rep. Tom Brinkman, a Cincinnati-area Republican, would regulate electric bicycles, also called e-bikes, and hold them to many of the same standards as normal bicycles. ... "This new technology in e-bikes will allow more Ohioans to use our wonderful trail network, longer and later in life," Brinkman said.

Dayton Daily News: New bill calls for more transparency in drug prices

"Action is needed to address the rising prescription drug prices to protect Ohio consumers," said state Rep. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, one of the sponsors of House Bill 479. "Prescription drug pricing in its supply chain is complex and broke and needs to be scrutinized."

Alliance Review: State Rep. Christina Hagan shows support for emergency personnel

"I am honored to discuss legislative matters impacting our community leaders and safety services, and to work toward solutions with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association," said Hagan. "I'm thankful for the daily sacrifices of all our Ohio firefighters and first responders."

WHAM: Mom pushes for change after 3 year old denied heart transplant due to Down syndrome

Miamisburg Representative Niraj Antani (R-District 42) is a primary sponsor of the bill and said, "They're told that they won't be able to follow the post operation regimen, their body won't be able to handle it, or that it's implied that their life is less worthy and that's wrong."

Sandusky Register: State bill aims to plug orphan wells

"As the representative of a district that is very concerned with the harmful effects of human activity on the environment ... I was proud to co-sponsor House Bill 225," Arndt said. "This legislation will help homeowners that discover abandoned orphan wells on their properties to properly address them."

My Town NEO: Hudson boys cross country team recognized by Roegner, LaRose

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to win a state title," Roegner said. "Our Hudson Boys Cross Country Team won the Division I State Championship through steadfast dedication. With an average 3.99 GPA, they are incredible student athletes and have earned the admiration of the state of Ohio."

Columbus Dispatch: Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers

Reps. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, and Thomas West, D-Canton, say pharmacy benefit management companies (PBMs) are issuing "gag orders" to keep pharmacists quiet about what could be cheaper medicines for their clients, and keeping the extra money for themselves — something the lawmakers hope to ban with new legislation, House Bill 479.

WKSU: Conservative lawmakers renew their push for Ohio to become a right-to-work state

Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel say their bill would allow voters to decide whether Ohio should be a right-to-work state for public and private sector employees and would put limits on unions to collect dues and spend money on political ads. Riedel says Ohioans should decide this issue, once and for all.

Marion Online: Riordan McClain sworn in as State Representative of the 87th Ohio House District

"Riordan McClain's experience in the private sector and financial management will surely prove to be a valuable asset to our caucus," said Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville). ... "I accept this appointment and will be honored to serve Ohio's 87th House District as state representative. I am appreciative of all the support that I've received through this process and look to carry that forward into a successful term representing our shared values," said McClain.

Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Business growth affirms healthy economy

The eighth consecutive year the state has experienced a record number of filings, new businesses have grown more than 46 percent since 2010. This continued progress is a

sure sign of economic health — when individuals are thriving and feel comfortable, they are able to invest in establishing their own business.

Portsmouth Daily Times: Rep. Johnson honors 'Burg with state resolution

Ohio State Representative Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) honored the Wheelersburg Pirates' football program for its state championship run back in the fall.

From: Caitlin Johnson, Policy Matters Ohio
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PRESS RELEASE

Advocates call for policies that support Ohio's workers

Contact: [Hannah Halbert](#)
614.221.4505

Later this month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear *Janus v. AFSCME*, which threatens the ability of unions to collect fair share fees. Ohio legislators also recently unveiled a slate of proposals designed to give more power to corporations at the expense of workers, including so-called "right to work" legislation, which could greatly reduce the power of Ohio's unions. With working people facing threats at state and national levels, Policy Matters Ohio joined ProgressOhio to unveil a [new policy brief, "A way forward: 10 ways to support Ohio's working people."](#)

"So-called 'Right-to-Work' legislation and related judicial attacks like the pending Janus case don't address these real struggles of working people," Policy Matters Researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Unionized workers in Ohio make \$4 an hour more than their non-union counterparts, \$8,000 more a year for full-time work. Union workers are more likely to have pensions and paid sick days, and less likely to be treated unfairly at work or experience harassment or workplace injuries."

Cincinnati fire fighter and Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters Communications Director Doug

Stern said so-called right-to-work laws not only chip away at the fabric of unions, but can make communities less safe.

"Attacks like these on working people and unions are attacks on fire fighters, police officers and all first responders, he said. "Our fire fighters and police officers deserve the right to collectively bargain so that we can effectively advocate for the training and equipment that keep our communities safe."

For decades, state and federal policymakers have chipped away at worker protections. As a result, Ohio's job growth has been weak and the state's wealthiest 1 percent earned more than 19 times the average of the bottom 99 percent of earners combined.

"The decline of unions has significantly contributed to the decline of the middle class as wages have remained stagnant and workers are getting a smaller and smaller share of income," said Wright State University Economics Professor Rudy Fichtenbaum. "Attacks on unions are not about increasing job growth; they're about corporations and the political elite gaining power over workers."

Policy Matters calls for the policymakers to protect workers' right to organize, as well as strengthen the public sector, raise the minimum wage, restore the 40-hour work week, fix Ohio's broken unemployment compensation system and more.

[See the press conference on Facebook Live.](#)

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Tuesday, February 13, 2018

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Pillich Expected to End Gubernatorial Campaign Wednesday](#)
- [Chief Justice Suggests ECOT's Enrollment-Minus-Participation Argument Leads to 'Absurd Result'](#)
- [ProMedica Signs Transfer Agreement with Toledo Abortion Clinic](#)
- [CSRAB Unveils Painting of Lincoln Addressing General Assembly](#)
- [Liberal Groups Slam 'Right-to-Work' Proposals, Offer Policy Alternatives](#)
- ['Sexting' Ban Gets First Hearing](#)
- [Legislation Conforming Ohio Law to New Federal Tax Law Begins Hearings in House](#)
- [HB228 Draws Wide Range of Testimony on Gun, Self-Defense Issues](#)
- [School Board Talks Graduation, ECOT Response, Machine Scoring of Tests](#)
- [AEP Draws Vocal Support for Clean Energy Plan in First Public Hearing on ESP](#)
- [Hambley, Sweeney Introduce 'Ohio Proud Craft Beer Act'](#)
- [AG Warns of Romance Scams](#)
- [People in the News: Cole; Bowen](#)
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NEWS

Akron prepares for a possible loss in court against the state (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/14/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court hears arguments in online charter school case (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Report: Fertilizer, manure top Lake Erie phosphorus sources (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Source: Pillich to leave governor's race, back Cordray (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Portman 'shocked' ex-aide accused of abuse (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

Sole female Dem in gubernatorial race to quit (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

Connie Pillich expected to drop out of the governor's race (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Lawmakers must rewrite Ohio bill to reflect new federal tax rules (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Ohio's charter school quality crackdown claims a big-city victim - the Cincinnati school district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Skill games to be regulated by Ohio Casino Control Commission (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Chief justice to ECOT attorney: 'How is that not absurd?' (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Kasich chosen to address graduates of Kennedy School in May (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

New report from pro-labor group pans right-to-work proposals (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Ohio wants to require those on Medicaid to get a job (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Pillich to leave race for governor, back Cordray (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Podcast: A discussion with gubernatorial candidate William O'Neill (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Portman shocked at allegations of abuse by former aide (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

President Trump jokes with Sherrod Brown on DACA (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

**Ohio considers raising child marriage age after DDN investigation
(Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)**

Portman's vetting of staffer didn't turn up complaints of wife abuse (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Vicious dogs: Ohio moves to change laws on dog owners (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

ECOT asks high court to restore its funding (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

Toledo's only abortion clinic now in time race to get transfer agreement signed (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

EDITORIALS

Unconscionable failure by Ohio Justices O'Donnell, DeWine to recuse in ECOT case after taking thousands in campaign dollars: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Great Lakes once again in budget crosshairs (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

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HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2018



HOSPITAL PACT MIGHT SAVE TOLEDO ABORTION CLINIC

A hospital system has authorized a patient-transfer agreement to keep the last abortion clinic in Toledo operating.



PILLICH TO LEAVE RACE FOR GOVERNOR, BACK CORDRAY

Only one of the original Democrats running for governor will still be in the race after Wednesday.

OHIO WANTS TO REQUIRE THOSE ON MEDICAID TO GET A JOB

Thousands of Ohioans soon might need to find a job or lose their Medicaid health insurance.

KASICH CHOSEN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES OF KENNEDY SCHOOL IN MAY

Gov. Kasich will address the 2018 graduates of the Harvard Kennedy School in May, the dean of the school said Tuesday.

CHIEF JUSTICE ON ECOT CLAIM FOR STATE MONEY: 'HOW IS THAT NOT ABSURD?'

As ECOT attorney Marion Little finished his arguments for why, under the law, the online school should get full funding for students even if they only log in once a month and do no work, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor interjected.

KASICH POSTPONES FOREIGN TRIP TO ATTEND OFFICERS' FUNERAL IN WESTERVILLE

Long-time Westerville resident Gov. John Kasich is postponing a foreign trade trip to attend the Friday funeral of two police officers slain in his hometown on Saturday.

A FIFTH OF OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NEED HELP TO EARN A DIPLOMA THIS YEAR

Less than five months from graduation, one out of five Ohio high school seniors still wouldn't qualify for a diploma under more-stringent state standards — requirements that at least temporarily have been softened to avert just such a crisis.

NEW REPORT FROM PRO-LABOR GROUP PANS RIGHT-TO-WORK PROPOSALS

In the wake of proposed right-to-work amendments by Republican lawmakers, a newly released report is recommending politicians can support Ohio workers by backing off of regulating unions.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO CONSIDERS RAISING CHILD MARRIAGE AGE AFTER DDN INVESTIGATION

An investigation by the Dayton Daily News into child marriage is prompting state lawmakers to introduce a bill that would bump up the legal marriage age to 18 for both males and females and allow 17-year-olds to marry with court approval.

VICIOUS DOGS: OHIO MOVES TO CHANGE LAWS ON DOG OWNERS

Four years after the gruesome attack that killed Dayton resident Klonda Richey, state lawmakers are taking a double barrel approach to finally putting more teeth in the state's vicious dog laws.

CINCINNATI DEMOCRAT CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO LEAVE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Former state representative Connie Pillich — the last woman leading a Democratic ticket for governor — is expected to drop out of the race and endorse former attorney general Rich Cordray on Wednesday, sources close to the campaign said.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOL QUALITY CRACKDOWN CLAIMS A BIG-CITY VICTIM - THE CINCINNATI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ohio's push to improve charter school quality has booted a major city school district - the Cincinnati Public Schools - out of the charter school business.

CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO DROP OUT OF THE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Connie Pillich, the lone remaining Democratic woman running for governor in what was supposed to be the "year of the woman," will drop out of the race Wednesday to endorse Richard Cordray, according to two Democratic sources.

ECOT FUNDING QUESTIONED BY OHIO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: "HOW IS IT NOT ABSURD?"

Ohio Supreme Court justices were wary this morning of how the ECOT online charter school wants to be funded as the school and Ohio Department of Education pleaded their cases to the court.

**UNCONSCIONABLE FAILURE BY OHIO JUSTICES O'DONNELL, DeWINE TO
RECUSE IN ECOT CASE AFTER TAKING THOUSANDS IN CAMPAIGN DOLLARS:**

EDITORIAL

The seven-member Ohio Supreme Court is hearing arguments this morning in a case whose outcome may kill or revive the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, or ECOT, the online charter school that shut down last month.

THE ENQUIRER

**CONNIE PILLICH TO END GUBERNATORIAL BID; ENDORSE CORDRAY. WAS THE
LONE FEMALE DEMOCRAT IN THE RACE**

In the so-called "year of the woman," the sole female in the Democratic race for governor will bow out to endorse former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director Richard Cordray.

DEMOCRAT KATHY WYENANDT FILES TO RUN IN OHIO 52ND DISTRICT

Democrat Kathy Wyenandt is challenging Republican George Lang for his Ohio House seat.

THE BLADE

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ECOT ASKS HIGH COURT TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING

Clinging to hope of reopening its virtual doors, what was once Ohio's largest online school on Tuesday urged the Ohio Supreme Court to halt state efforts to claw back tens of millions in past aid.

PILLICH TO DROP OHIO GOVERNOR BID

Another Democratic candidate for governor will drop out of the race Wednesday and throw her support to Richard Cordray for the party's nomination.

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Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 5:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 2/26/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/26/2018



FUTURE UNCERTAIN AS OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD SITS IDLE

The future of Ohio's once-powerful higher education advisory board remains uncertain as lawmakers move to change the way the state oversees education.

OHIO MOVES TO ADD WRIGHT FLYER TO STATE SEAL AMID DISPUTE

Ohio is staking another public claim to the Wright brothers' legacy amid a dispute with Connecticut over an aviator that state says flew first.

GOP GOVERNOR TAPS ADVISERS FOR GUN POLICY TALKS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has convened a diverse group of advisers on gun policy to help him come up with a consensus policy proposal that he can bring forward in the coming days.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAY ARRIVE LATE IN OHIO

From litigation to audits to legislation, the attempted fixes are piling up for an Ohio medical marijuana program that has been beset by problems.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HOPE TO WIN BACK TRUMP

VOTERS

Getting Ohio Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump back into the fold was a theme Sunday as Democratic candidates for governor appeared before the public in Marysville.

KASICH FAVORS ARMING TEACHERS, AGAINST 'STAND YOUR GROUND'

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is hoping that a group he's quietly convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly.

FRUSTRATED ACTIVIST BASHES KASICH, EYES RECREATIONAL WEED

An architect of Ohio's medical marijuana law Friday accused Gov. John Kasich of intentionally torpedoing the state's program, which is supposed to start in September.

UNION MONEY NOW FUELS GOP LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS IN OHIO

Ohio has increasingly become an island among states that have passed a right-to-work law — an initiative strongly opposed by labor unions.

NEARLY NEW LINEUP AT DEMOCRATS' NEXT OHIO GOVERNOR DEBATE IN

TOLEDO

When four Democratic candidates for Ohio governor gathered for a debate in Columbus in October, they spent their time discussing Ohio's opioid crisis, the scandal surrounding online charter school ECOT, and the financial cost to local communities of state tax breaks for businesses.

KASICH ASSAILS DEMOCRATS FOR LACKING AGENDA

Launching a spirited attack against the Democratic Party, Ohio Gov. John Kasich charged he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

CAPITOL INSIDER: KASICH CHANGES HIS TUNE ON 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' VOTE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's evolution on gun issues apparently continues.

EDITORIAL: DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

Gun-rights advocates in the Ohio House of Representatives had every reason to expect House Bill 228 to pass easily, further dismantling the state's already-flimsy regulation of deadly weapons.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ER POLICY CRITICIZED BY OHIO

LAWMAKERS

Several Democratic state lawmakers want to penalize Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for a new policy that does not cover some emergency room visits deemed by the insurer not to be emergencies.

THE PLAIN DEALER

KASICH, OTHER GOVERNORS RESTATE NATIONAL NEED TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska came to the nation's capital Friday to remind policy makers, businesses and the public: There's still much work to do on health care.

'YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET PUNCHED, AT LEAST IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MINUTE' OHIO MATTERS: EPISODE 6 - JOE SCHIAVONI

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni acknowledges the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been a tough fight so far.

REPUBLICAN OHIO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES SUPPORT ARMING TEACHERS TO HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Both Republican candidates for Ohio governor say they support arming teachers as part of an approach to prevent further school shootings.

STATE EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS PROCESSED BY ANTHEM NOT AFFECTED BY NEW ER RULE

State employees are not affected by a new Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield rule that leaves some policyholders with emergency-room bills when the company determines they didn't need emergency care.

OHIO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BALLOT MEASURE MIGHT NOT HAPPEN IN 2018, BACKER SAYS

Ohioans hoping to vote to legalize recreational marijuana this year will likely have to wait a little longer, perhaps as long as two years.

FACT CHECK: OHIO DEMOCRATS TAKE FRANK LAROSE'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT

The Ohio Democratic Party on Friday circulated a 13-second audio recording of Republican Frank LaRose, a candidate for secretary of state, claiming that he was bragging about a Republican plan to gerrymander states across the country, including Ohio in 2011.

MARY TAYLOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS NEW JOB WITH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

A longtime Kasich administration staffer has a new job advising Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program, but few details were available Friday about what he will do in the new role.

ROLL OF SHAME OF OHIO LAWMAKERS WHO OVERRODE GOP GOV. TAFT'S 2006 VETO, ENDING CITIES' BANS ON MASSACRE-CAPABLE WEAPONS: THOMAS SUDDER

Some Ohioans sincerely believe the Second Amendment trumps any attempt to regulate massacre-capable guns.

FIRSTENERGY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO POCKET CORPORATE-TAX-CUT

WINDFALL AND SHORT CUSTOMERS: EDITORIAL

The last time U.S. corporate tax rates were slashed, during the Reagan administration, some state utility regulators were slow off the mark in making sure investor-owned utilities didn't just pocket the profits without adjusting consumer bills, The New York Times reports.

THE ENQUIRER

**THE NRA HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OHIO REPUBLICANS
– AND DEMOCRATS.**

The National Rifle Association has long supported Republicans around the country, and vice versa.

THE BLADE
One of America's Great Newspapers

LITIGATION PROCEEDS OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING

A lawsuit that could endanger the timeline for Ohio's rollout of its fledgling medical marijuana program will forge ahead despite proposed legislation to give the state a chance to correct licensing flaws.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 5:50 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 3/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

3/2/2018



BILL WOULD REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS

The Ohio House will consider legislation giving garbage trucks "move-over" protections in place for emergency vehicles.

NEXT PHASE OPENS IN OHIO'S \$8M OPIOID TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Ohio launched the second stage of its global technology challenge Wednesday aimed at finding solutions to the U.S. opioid crisis.

MORE THAN 131,000 ISSUED CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES IN OHIO

Ohio's attorney general says more than 131,000 residents were issued licenses last year to carry concealed weapons.

OHIO BILL WOULD ALLOW PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR DATING VIOLENCE

A bipartisan bill allowing victims of dating violence to seek protective orders against alleged perpetrators is on its way to Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

KASICH PROPOSES 'RED FLAG' LAW, OTHER GUN CHANGES IN STATE

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday advocated a "red flag" law for Ohio, a ban on armor-piercing ammunition and other gun policy positions he says represent political consensus in a bellwether state that could fly nationally.

2 DEMOCRATS FOR OHIO OFFICES WANT OPEN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Two Democrats seeking statewide office in Ohio are pitching a plan they say would guarantee Ohio's redistricting process for congressional districts is more transparent to the public.



FOR SCHIAVONI RUNNING MATE, DRUG CRISIS IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ohio's opioid epidemic is so extensive that it's struck the families of at least two of those seeking statewide office.

KASICH UNVEILS 'UNANIMOUS' PROPOSALS TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Saying he has to deal with the art of what's possible — what can pass the Republican-dominated General Assembly, Gov. John Kasich proposed six gun-law reforms on Thursday that he believes he can help Ohio avert some gun deaths.

CRITICS SLAM MEDICAID WORK PROPOSAL

Advocates, health-care providers and others slammed a state plan on Thursday that would require most non-disabled adults on Medicaid to work or lose their tax-funded health care.

LAWMAKERS OFFER COUNTIES \$114.5 MILLION FOR VOTING MACHINES

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring.

REP. BOGGS NEEDS HELP TO QUALIFY FOR PRIMARY BALLOT

State Rep. Kristin Boggs, D-Columbus, will need help from Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted in order to qualify to run as a write-in candidate for the May primary.

MAYOR GINTHER ENDORSES CORDRAY FOR GOVERNOR

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on Thursday endorsed Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general and former director of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in the Democratic primary for governor.

EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE DRUG USE DEMANDS ATTENTION

Drugs and workplaces don't mix. That's common sense, but now employers have more reasons to take a hard line against employee drug use.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

MORE THAN 131,000 OHIOANS GET PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

More than 131,000 Ohioans got their licenses last year to carry concealed weapons — 77,281 new ones and 54,064 renewals, according to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

THE PLAIN DEALER

\$114.5 MILLION PROPOSED FOR NEW OHIO VOTING MACHINES

Ohio counties could soon get some money from the state to help replace aging voting equipment.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO FOCUS ON OHIO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR

Planned Parenthood political organizations announced Thursday that they'll spend at least \$20 million in this year's elections, with a particular focus on gubernatorial and Senate races in Ohio and seven other states.

OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES 6 GUN POLICY CHANGES

Tightening background checks for gun buyers and allowing "red flag" protection orders were among six gun violence policy recommendations made Thursday by a bipartisan panel assembled by Gov. John Kasich.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OPIOID LITIGATION

As U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised, the Justice Department on Thursday evening filed a "statement of interest" in the swath of lawsuits being heard in Cleveland that accuse drug manufacturers and distributors of heavily contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

THE ENQUIRER

JOHN KASICH'S 'COMMONSENSE' GUN CONTROL PLAN: WOULD NEW OHIO GUN LAWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

John Kasich wants to change Ohio's gun laws, touting support for "commonsense" measures from a handful of Republicans and Democrats.

THE BLADE

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KASICH PROPOSES GUN REFORM MEASURES

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday unveiled a package of proposed gun law reforms to prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition and third-party "strawman" sales of guns to people prohibited from having them.

PROPOSAL WOULD FUND NEW VOTING MACHINES

Ohio would borrow \$114.5 million to help counties replace an aging fleet of voting machines in time by next year under a bill reworked Thursday.

EDITORIAL: RIGHT-TO-WORK INFRINGES ON EMPLOYERS

Is it too much to ask for some consistency from time to time?

EDITORIAL: DENNIS KUCINICH LEADING ON GUN ISSUE

Successful political campaigns sometimes catch a breeze they never counted on because of some unexpected occurrence that changes public attitudes between the time the candidates filed and the time the voters vote.

The Vindicator

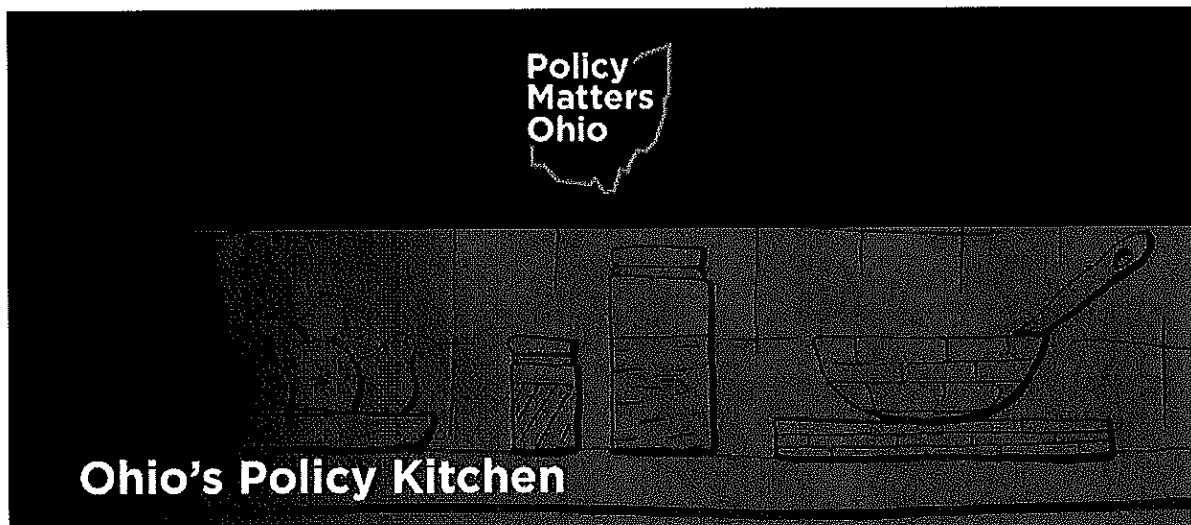
SCHIAVONI GETS THE MAHONING DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT FOR GOVERNOR

When it came to endorsing a candidate for governor, the Mahoning County Democratic Party overwhelmingly went for one of its own.

From: Policy Matters Ohio
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 2:35 PM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Remembering Dr. King's last campaign

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Embracing Dr. King's "revolution of values"



Today, Americans mark and mourn the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination by a racist white man. But we should also remember what King said 51 years ago, a year to the day before his death. In New York's historic Riverside Church, King called for a "radical revolution of values" that would "remove those conditions of poverty, insecurity, and injustice." King made explicit the connections between civil rights and economic equity.

In our small way, at Policy Matters, we're trying to honor Dr. King's legacy by insisting on policies that recognize the dignity of all people. We hope he'd approve of the fights we've taken on this year:

- President Trump has drastically cut taxes to benefit the wealthiest few. He has now proposed a budget that slashes funding for programs that build opportunity for all Americans. We're shining a light on how cuts to Medicaid, food aid, college assistance, public

education and more will harm Ohioans across congressional districts.

- GOP lawmakers here in Ohio are pushing so-called “right to work” laws that would weaken labor unions — the single most effective tool in protecting workers’ rights, ensuring decent wages and shrinking workplace barriers for people of color and women. (Dr. King recognized the power in a union: when he was assassinated, he was in Memphis to support a union of black sanitation workers on strike to protest dangerous working conditions.)
- We’ve outlined 10 policies that will help Ohio’s working people get ahead, like overtime protection, raising the minimum wage and paid family leave.
- With the Trump administration’s blessing, state policymakers are looking to cut Medicaid by erecting new barriers that make it harder for low-income Ohioans to access health care. We’re working with partners to beat back these attacks.

Dr. King saw clearly that the American economy is upside down, with the powerful few hoarding resources at the top. In his Riverside Church speech, King predicted a “true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.” In the half-century since, that contrast has grown even more glaring, the revolution of values even more urgent. We should all do our best to rise to the occasion.

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 5:56 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 5/15/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/15/2018



GOP GOV. KASICH TO SHARE OHIO PLAN TO HELP LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is announcing an initiative aimed at helping legal immigrants successfully integrate in the state.

OHIO HOUSE GOP TO PICK NEW SPEAKER; LAST LEADER RESIGNED

Republicans in the Ohio House are slated to vote on a new House speaker after the previous leader resigned amid an FBI inquiry surrounding his activities.



KASICH, DeWINE OPPOSE SPORTS BETTING; CORDRAY WOULD CONSIDER IT

Can you imagine betting a few bucks — legally — on the Ohio State University football Buckeyes to cover the spread against That Team up North?

HUNDREDS GATHER AT STATEHOUSE TO MARK REBIRTH OF POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

Almost 50 years to the day after the original Poor People's Campaign marched on Washington, the current iteration of the movement descended on the Statehouse steps to call on the General Assembly to address the plight of the millions of people living in poverty.

HOUSE GOP DRAGGED INTO CONTENTIOUS TUESDAY SPEAKER VOTE

The House speaker is one of the most powerful people in state government, and Ohio lawmakers are about to pick a new one in a rare mid-term replacement.

MANY STATE EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 8.7% RAISE OVER 3 YEARS

Members of the state's largest employee union will receive a raise of more than 8 percent over three years in a contract ratified by the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association.

DISPUTE OVER PROTECTION OF EVIDENCE IN ECOT CASE RESOLVED

The Ohio auditor's office has finished collecting data for a criminal investigation of failed online charter school ECOT and placed the records in an evidence locker, where they can be

opened and reviewed only by a judge's order under an agreement reached Monday in Franklin County Common Pleas Court.

THE PLAIN DEALER

SPORTS WAGERING COULD BE HEADING TO OHIO AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING

Placing sports bets at Ohio casinos made giant leap toward becoming legal with a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday.

MIKE DEWINE RAISED \$1 MILLION IN 72 HOURS FOLLOWING HIS GOP PRIMARY WIN, HIS CAMPAIGN SAYS

Mike DeWine's campaign for governor raised \$1 million in the 72-hour period after he won the Republican nomination last week, his campaign said Monday.

FORUM LOOKS TO FIND ANSWERS ON HOW TO GET MORE WOMEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS

Three politically astute women will share their insights into the disparity between men and women in politics at a Wednesday forum in Cleveland Heights.

OHIO MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMPANIES AWAIT JUDGE'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO PAUSE GROW LICENSES

The decision of whether to halt a portion of Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program - which the state argues will delay cannabis from getting to sick patients - is now in Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Richard Frye's hands.

THE ENQUIRER

WILL OHIO LEGALIZE SPORTS GAMBLING AFTER U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION?

Want to bet on the Cincinnati Bearcats, Ohio State University Buckeyes or Cincinnati Bengals?

FBI INVESTIGATION: WHO WILL WIN THE GOP BATTLE TO LEAD THE OHIO HOUSE?

Right to work. Abortion restrictions. Gun laws. Money for schools. Medicaid expansion. A key person controlling decisions on these controversial, complex topics: the Ohio House speaker.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

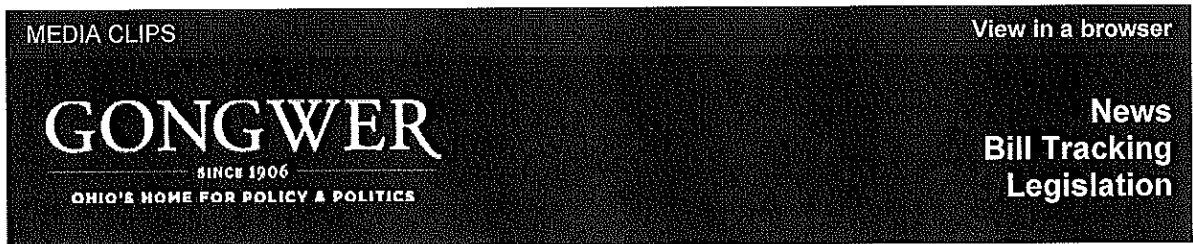
SUPREME COURT LETS STATES, INCLUDING OHIO, LEGALIZE SPORTS GAMBLING

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday opened the door for states like Ohio to enter the sports-betting arena, but it remains to be seen whether the Buckeye State is ready to walk through it.

SCHOOL THAT TOOK ECOT STUDENTS WANTS POOR SCORES IGNORED

Maumee-based Ohio Virtual Academy and its sponsor are asking lawmakers to provide a “safe harbor” from potentially poor academic performance by students who transferred from the now-shuttered Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:20 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, May 31



NEWS

Trump signs bill for terminal patients to try unproven drugs (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/31/2018)

Group says Ohio needs office to lobby for more military jobs (Associated Press, 5/31/2018)

Mike DeWine says right-to-work is not on his agenda. So did GOP governors who later supported it. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Paul Ryan to attend Troy Balderson fundraiser in suburban Columbus (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Questions about funding stall Ohio bail-reform bill (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

State Rep. Scott Lipps wears his last name with a smile (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Brown-Portman bill would give fentanyl detectors to law enforcement (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Democratic group assails Balderson on ECOT campaign cash (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Group says Ohio needs office to lobby for military jobs (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Speaker feud continues as Smith backers call for immediate vote (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

Bill would push Ohio schools to open after Labor Day (Dayton Daily News, 5/31/2018)

Dayton company part of 'clean energy' movement that could create 20K Ohio jobs (Dayton Daily News, 5/31/2018)

Dems want to pin ECOT blame on GOP in fall election: What's really going on (Dayton Daily News, 5/31/2018)

Ohio House speaker candidate demands immediate vote (Toledo Blade, 5/31/2018)

Lawmakers losing patience get the promise of a light at the end of the tunnel (WDTN, 5/31/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Listening to voters, the ACLU of Ohio way (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/31/2018)

A troubling window into Army Corps machinations over Cuyahoga River dredge: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Decisions made in Columbus are forcing local tax increases (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/31/2018)

Editorial: Only one real choice in Ohio House speaker mess (Columbus Dispatch, 5/31/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:44 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 5/31/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/31/2018



GROUP SAYS OHIO NEEDS OFFICE TO LOBBY FOR MILITARY JOBS

Ohio needs an agency that would help put the state at the forefront of military development and lobby for its current bases, a statewide committee recommended.



DEMOCRATIC GROUP ASSAILS BALDERSON ON ECOT CAMPAIGN CASH

An independent organization backing Democrats launched a digital TV commercial against U.S. House Republican candidate Troy Balderson for not giving up \$10,000 in campaign contributions to the founder of defunct online school ECOT.

SPEAKER FEUD CONTINUES AS SMITH BACKERS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE VOTE

Stressing that they are not the ones keeping the House from conducting business, Rep. Ryan Smith and about 25 of his supporters gathered Wednesday to urge a speaker's vote be called as soon as Thursday.

EDITORIAL: ONLY ONE REAL CHOICE IN OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER MESS

The unprecedented breakdown of leadership in the Ohio House of Representatives is about one thing — serving one member's ambition to be speaker come January — and it's time for it to stop.



BILL WOULD PUSH OHIO SCHOOLS TO OPEN AFTER LABOR DAY

A bill calling for Ohio schools to begin the academic year after Labor Day had its second hearing before the Ohio House Education Committee last week.

THE PLAIN DEALER

MIKE DEWINE SAYS RIGHT-TO-WORK IS NOT ON HIS AGENDA. SO DID GOP GOVERNORS WHO LATER SUPPORTED IT.

Attorney General Mike DeWine, the Republican nominee for governor, side-stepped questions on Wednesday about whether he would support so-called right-to-work legislation.

STATE REP. SCOTT LIPPS WEARS HIS LAST NAME WITH A SMILE

In the halls of the Ohio Statehouse, it's usually not hard to guess which lawmaker is state Rep. Scott Lipps.

PAUL RYAN TO ATTEND TROY BALDERSON FUNDRAISER IN SUBURBAN COLUMBUS

U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan is set to be in suburban Columbus on Wednesday afternoon for a fundraiser on behalf of 12th Congressional District Republican nominee Troy Balderson, according to Balderson's campaign.

THE BLADE

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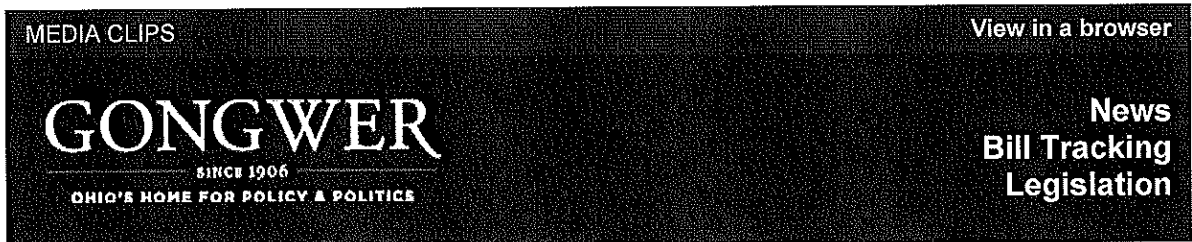
REAGAN TOKES RALLY TO PROMOTE SELF-DEFENSE, LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

In a public park less than five miles from where Reagan Tokes was killed 16 months ago, a rally will be held next week to retell her story and promote self-defense and legislative reforms to prevent that story from being repeated.

OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER CANDIDATE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE VOTE

The leading candidate to be Ohio's next House speaker insisted Wednesday on an immediate vote of the chamber rather than a change in rules to allow the current second-in-command to perform the duties of the job but without the title.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 5:20 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, June 14



NEWS

Ex-Rep. Gabby Giffords speaks against gun violence in Ohio (Associated Press, 6/14/2018)

Ohio's top court hears arguments on promotions tax dispute (Associated Press, 6/14/2018)

Mike Pence will be met with dancing drag queens in Columbus (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/14/2018)

Poll: Ohio voters want to send message to Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/14/2018)

This 2018 poll has lots to make Ohio GOP worry (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/14/2018)

Businesses want loans to fix failing multi-employer pension system (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Jim Renacci's Senate campaign is staffing up for November 2018 Ohio election (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Ohio dark-money group broke campaign-finance rules, group claims (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Richard Cordray, Mike DeWine tied in latest poll. Sherrod Brown up big ... again. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/2018)

Brown confident jobs safe at defense agencies in Whitehall (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Businesses warn of dire threat if multiemployer pension crisis is not addressed (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

DeWine fights union plea for clothing allowance payments (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

DeWine, Portman will share spotlight during Pence visit (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

List of Ohio doctors approved to recommend medical marijuana grows (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Partnership to free up more money for Ohio suicide prevention programs (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Quinnipiac poll: DeWine-Cordray race too close to call (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Republican auditor candidate says opponent doesn't understand job (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Gov. John Kasich more popular with Democrats in Ohio than Republicans, poll says (Dayton Daily News, 6/14/2018)

New polls show Sherrod Brown up big over Jim Renacci in US Senate race (Dayton Daily News, 6/14/2018)

Who is Rep. Jim Jordan's favorite liberal? The answer might surprise you. (Dayton Daily News, 6/14/2018)

Sen. Sherrod Brown: Farm Bill might aid Lake Erie (Toledo Blade, 6/14/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Forward with public universities (Akron Beacon Journal, 6/14/2018)

Editorial: Expect to hear = 2voter purge' into November (Canton Repository, 6/14/2018)

Editorial: Voter registrations won't be canceled; Ohioans should use them (Columbus Dispatch, 6/14/2018)

Sutton: If DeWine opposes right-to-work he should say so (Youngstown Vindicator, 6/14/2018)

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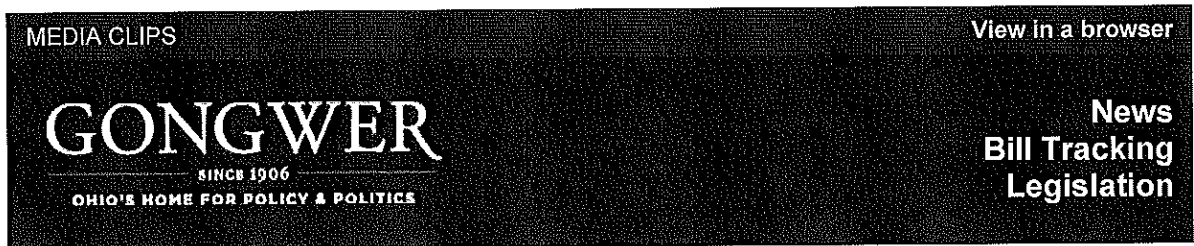
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 5:34 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, June 28



NEWS

////////////////////////////////////
Firm hired to investigate lawmaker also donated to him (Associated Press, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers look to provide online academy 'safe harbor' (Associated Press, 6/28/2018)

Grab a beer with man's best friend: Ohio expected to allow dogs on patios (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/28/2018)

This U.S. Supreme Court decision might have forced Ohio into 'right-to-work' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/28/2018)

Bone appetit: Dogs could soon be welcome at bar and restaurant patios (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers OK \$114.5 million for new voting machines (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Ohio Senate Democrats push for payday lending vote; Republicans scramble to shut it down (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Schools that took in ECOT kids win 'safe harbor' from penalties for bad grades (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Sherrod Brown nabs endorsement from Ohio doctors group (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Drug middlemen charging Ohioans triple the going rate (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Law firm that cleared legislator also gave him cash (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio legislature sends package of e-school bills to Kasich (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio legislature sends package of e-school bills to Kasich (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio payday lenders off the hook — for now at least (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Sexting bill looks to give teens a break for bad choice (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Ohio congressman: Delay replacing Justice Kennedy till after fall election (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio House votes to prohibit forcing churches to perform gay weddings (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers vote to ban sexting by anyone under 19, set up diversion program (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers vote to end fees charged for credit freezes (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

Ohio lawmakers vote to raise marriage age after Dayton Daily News investigation (Dayton Daily News, 6/28/2018)

High court strikes down fair-share fees for public workers (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

Last minute bills move in Ohio House, Senate (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

State lawmakers approve Lake Erie funding bill (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

Toledo abortion clinic argues state fines unwarranted (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

EDITORIALS

Sarah LaTourette a rising star in Ohio House: Brent Larkin (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/28/2018)

Editorial: Cops in schools are helpful with appropriate guidelines (Columbus Dispatch, 6/28/2018)

Payday lending fiasco (Toledo Blade, 6/28/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 5:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 6/28/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

6/28/2018



OHIO LAWMAKERS LOOK TO PROVIDE ONLINE ACADEMY 'SAFE HARBOR'

Ohio's Republican-led Legislature is preparing to temporarily relax academic performance standards on a virtual school that took in thousands of students from a now-shuttered competitor.

FIRM HIRED TO INVESTIGATE LAWMAKER ALSO DONATED TO HIM

A law firm that cleared one of Ohio's most powerful state lawmakers of a sexual harassment allegation in April contributed to the politician's campaign while the probe was going on, state campaign finance filings show.



DRUG MIDDLEMEN CHARGING OHIOANS TRIPLE THE GOING RATE — OR MORE

Pharmacy middlemen are charging Ohio taxpayers three to six times as much to process prescription drugs for the poor and disabled as the industry standard.

OHIO LEGISLATURE SENDS PACKAGE OF E-SCHOOL BILLS TO KASICH

With ECOT closed and other Ohio e-schools still struggling to verify the enrollment numbers used to pay them, state legislators sent a package of proposals to Gov. John Kasich aimed at clarifying the basis for paying the schools.

PASTOR PROTECTION ACT PASSES OVER DISCRIMINATION CONCERNS

A Pastor Protection Act that supporters say upholds religious freedom but critics call unnecessary and discriminatory against gay couples was approved by the Ohio House on Wednesday.

LAW FIRM THAT CLEARED LEGISLATOR ALSO GAVE HIM CASH

The Ohio House of Representatives regularly has turned to the law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister when in need of an outside investigator.

SEXTING BILL LOOKS TO GIVE TEENS A BREAK FOR BAD CHOICE

Not wanting to hammer all teens with harsh penalties when they are caught sending nude photographs, the Ohio House voted unanimously on Wednesday to support a lesser penalty for young first-time offenders.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO HOUSE VOTES TO REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR TRASH TRUCKS

A measure to require drivers to "move over" when passing trash trucks with flashing lights was approved by the Ohio House on Wednesday on a 84-0 vote.

OHIO LAWMAKERS VOTE TO RAISE MARRIAGE AGE AFTER DAYTON DAILY NEWS INVESTIGATION

Following a Dayton Daily News investigation into thousands of minors getting married in Ohio, lawmakers on Wednesday voted to raise the marriage age to 18 and allow 17-year-olds to marry under some conditions.

OHIO TEACHERS MAY FACE MORE TRAINING ON YOUTH SUICIDE RISKS

Teachers and other public school workers would be required to be trained on the signs that a youth may be at risk of suicide, under a bill that passed the Ohio House on Wednesday by a 82-0 vote.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO SENATE DEMOCRATS PUSH FOR PAYDAY LENDING VOTE; REPUBLICANS SCRAMBLE TO SHUT IT DOWN

Democrats on a committee vetting a proposal to restrict payday loans tried to advance the measure to the full Senate on Wednesday, but the Republican majority successfully defeated the effort.

OHIO LAWMAKERS OK \$114.5 MILLION FOR NEW VOTING MACHINES

Help is on the way to replace Ohio's aging voting machines.

SCHOOLS THAT TOOK IN ECOT KIDS WIN 'SAFE HARBOR' FROM PENALTIES FOR BAD GRADES

ECOT students were so far behind other students that schools taking them in deserve a "safe harbor" from damage to their grades, the Ohio legislature decided Wednesday.

OHIO LEGISLATURE PASSES BLOCKCHAIN LEGISLATION

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

OHIO LAWMAKERS PASS WAVE OF BILLS HEADING INTO SUMMER BREAK: CAPITOL LETTER

Wrapping up: On their final session day before the Ohio General Assembly heads into summer break, both chambers passed dozens of bills during marathon sessions that lasted well into Wednesday evening.

SARAH LATOURETTE A RISING STAR IN OHIO HOUSE: BRENT LARKIN

Sarah LaTourette was afraid to tell her father.

THE ENQUIRER

GRAB A BEER WITH MAN'S BEST FRIEND: OHIO EXPECTED TO ALLOW DOGS ON PATIOS

In the middle of the dog days of summer or after a "ruff" time at work, you'll soon be able to sip a Bud – or maybe some hair of the dog – with man's best friend, thanks to a bill passed by Ohio lawmakers to allow dogs on outdoor patios.

THIS U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION MIGHT HAVE FORCED OHIO INTO 'RIGHT-TO-WORK'

Remember that bitter fight against Ohio's Senate Bill 5? A U.S. Supreme Court decision just upended part of it.

PAYDAY LENDING: NO VOTE ON CONTROVERSIAL BILL FOR NOW

Ohio lawmakers won't place any more restrictions on the payday lending industry for now – slowing down a bill that sped through one chamber following an FBI probe into its leader's travel with lobbyists.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

STATE LAWMAKERS APPROVE LAKE ERIE FUNDING BILL

As the annual peak season for toxic algal blooms on Lake Erie approaches, lawmakers on Wednesday finalized a bipartisan measure putting \$36 million more in state funds behind efforts to tackle the issue even as critics argue that just throwing more money at the problem isn't the answer.

LAST MINUTE BILLS MOVE IN OHIO HOUSE, SENATE

In their rush for the door for the summer, the Ohio House and Senate on Wednesday voted on more than 50 bills, with some headed for the governor's signature.

BILL PROTECTING E-SCHOOL HEADS TO GOVERNOR

A bill shielding what is now Ohio's largest online school and its sponsor from the negative consequences of accepting thousands of former Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow students is headed to Gov. John Kasich for his signature.

EDITORIAL: PAYDAY LENDING FIASCO

Clamping down on predatory lenders, who charge Ohioans the highest interest rates in the nation, should not require a constitutional amendment, but apparently it's going to.

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 3:15 AM

To: Alexander, Steven

Subject: 'Right-to-work' group threatens to sue Ohio after Supreme Court ruling

Friday, July 6, 2018

[View in Browser](#)



Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock, Jeremy Pelzer & Jackie Borchardt



The west entrance of the Ohio Senate Building is a smaller-scale version of a famed staircase in the Paris Opera House, with Carrara marble from Italy and gold leaf on the walls. (Laura Hancock/cleveland.com)

Rotunda Rumblings

Just due it: A “right-to-work” advocacy group has threatened Ohio with a lawsuit if it doesn't immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union state workers. But cleveland.com's Jeremy Pelzer reports that the agency that handles payroll for state employees hasn't taken any action so far in response to the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*.

Moving forward: Supporters of a proposed November ballot issue that would set new standards for dialysis treatment and cap what for-profit

clinics can charge submitted more than 475,000 signatures Wednesday, [cleveland.com's Kaylee Remington reports](#).

Also moving forward: Supporters of the "Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Amendment" also submitted more than 730,000 signatures on Wednesday in hopes of making the November ballot, [cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt writes](#). The proposed amendment would reduce penalties for individuals convicted of nonviolent drug and drug paraphernalia possession crimes and direct the cost savings to addiction treatment and crime victim programs. The secretary of state's office has until July 24 to certify each proposed amendment collected at least 305,591 valid signatures.

All aboard: Columbus will have Ohio's first self-driving shuttles by December, [writes cleveland.com's Laura Hancock](#). The city, state and Ohio State University are seeking proposals for companies that can operate a shuttle service downtown.

Back from the dead? The Libertarian Party of Ohio has filed petitions this week to regain Ohio "minor-party" status for the first time since the 2014 election. As [Pelzer explains](#), if the party can get on the ballot this year, it's likely to run Columbus filmmaker (and anti-Gov. John Kasich satirical group founder) Travis Irvine for governor.

Jordan fights back: U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, in an interview with reporters on the Fourth of July in Fremont, Ohio, again disputed claims that he knew Ohio State wrestlers had been sexually abused by a team doctor. [Cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton rounds up](#) the latest in the nationally publicized story, including Jordan's assertion that an ex-wrestler making the accusations has sent him harassing emails.

Inside the Statehouse: Ohio officials laid the first cornerstone for the Ohio Statehouse 171 years ago. [Cleveland.com's Laura Hancock shows](#) the building's rich history with 16 images.

He's running: Literally. [Cleveland.com's Seth Richardson caught up](#) (no easy task) to Republican Attorney General Mike DeWine on the Fourth of July doing one of the things he loves best: marching in parades.

Richardson has an entertaining time-lapse video of DeWine logging nearly 8,500 steps before noon. The GOP gubernatorial nominee was of course accompanied by his wife, Fran, handing out her legendary cookbook.

Where are they now? The status of about 2,300 former students from the shuttered Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is unknown, the Associated Press reveals. Many students from the controversial online charter school transferred to other schools, but the state doesn't know what happened to the rest, the AP reports.

No reply: "Records show more than 200 courts across Ohio failed to respond to Gov. John Kasich's executive order seeking more information on their history with the national background check database used in stopping gun-related crimes," reports Julie Carr Smyth of the AP. Those that didn't respond were mostly small mayor's courts, the report says.

Kasich, the anti-Trump: The governor is out with another op-ed, this time decrying President Donald Trump's trade war. The piece appears in the Financial Times.

Unfinished business: Ohio lawmakers sent a lot of bills to Gov. John Kasich before they took a summer break. But they left some high-profile legislation hanging, reports Carr Smyth of the Associated Press. That includes payday loan restrictions and a controversial "stand your ground" bill.

Preventive measures: The Washington Post looked at the case of the 4,000 eggs and embryos that were lost at the University Hospitals fertility center. The Post report features an interview with Ohio Sen. Joe Schiavoni who is working on a bill "he hopes will help prevent such disasters in the future and introduce penalties for fertility clinics that violate the new safeguards," Post reporter Ariana Eunjung Cha writes.

For what ailes you: If you're wondering whether your illness would qualify you for legal medicinal marijuana in Ohio, Borchardt created a handy list of medical conditions.

Full Disclosure

Five things we learned from the April 9 financial disclosure statement of state Rep. Jeff Rezabek, a Dayton Republican who is resigning to become a Montgomery County Juvenile Court judge. Gov. John Kasich appointed him to the new post Monday.

1. Rezabek reported earning \$25,000 to \$49,999 last year as an attorney in private practice licensed in Ohio and New York. He made \$65,476 as a lawmaker, according to the Ohio Treasurer's office.
2. At some time in 2017, he owed at least \$1,000 to Nelnet, Fifth Third Bank, Day Air Credit Union, Bank of America, Credit First, N.A. and U.S. Bank. His campaign committee, Citizens for Rezabek, owed him at least \$1,000 at some point last year.
3. The Ohio House reimbursed him \$3,197.38 for mileage between home and Columbus. The Ohio Judicial Conference gave Rezabek \$173.25 for a hotel room during its annual meeting in Columbus, when he participated in a legislative panel. The Ohio House Republican Organizational Committee paid for \$133.40 in travel. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce paid for his \$69 lodging at its Policy Conference at Salt Fork in September. The Campaign for Fair Sentencing of Youth paid \$487.40 for his hotel, meals and flight to a conference last year.
4. He received an unspecified gift from Virginia Ragan, a prominent Republican donor, worth at least \$75.
5. School Choice Ohio Inc. paid \$33.66 for Rezabek to attend a "lunch and learn" session March 30, 2017. He received at least one Dayton Dragons baseball ticket last year, worth \$20.97, from the Dayton Development Coalition. He also received \$58 in food at a Dayton Dragons game from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Birthdays

Saturday: State Rep. John Patterson; Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right To Life; James E. Campbell, Ohio's 38th

governor (1843-1924); A. Victor Donahey, Ohio's 50th governor (1873-1946)

Straight From The Source

"I normally only give this to mediocre college football coaches."

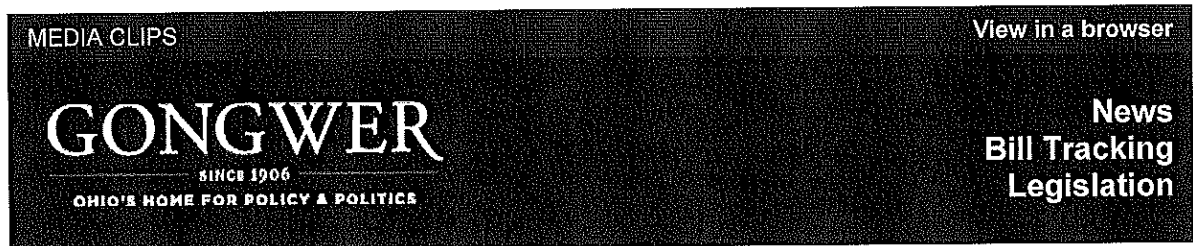
- Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, while presenting a key to the city to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. Kapszukiewicz took some flak from Ohio State University fans and the University of Toledo earlier this year for giving a ceremonial key to University of Michigan football coach Jim Harbaugh. Harbaugh, a Toledo native, headlined an event there in May that raised \$100,000 for legal aid services.

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 5:26 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Friday, July 6



NEWS

Payday loans, guns among stalled issues at Ohio Statehouse
(Associated Press, 7/6/2018)

Status of 2,300 former ECOT students unknown, Associated Press
reports (Associated Press, 7/6/2018)

Why is PG Sittenfeld raising money? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/6/2018)

Why Ohio keeps voting on odd, complicated issues (Cincinnati Enquirer,
7/6/2018)

Ohio drug treatment and rehabilitation amendment could be on
November ballot (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

Ohio Libertarians seek a return to the ballot this year (Cleveland Plain
Dealer, 7/6/2018)

Right-to-work group demands Ohio stop collecting union dues from
some state workers (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

What medical conditions can be treated with medical marijuana in Ohio?
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

Democrat Danny O'Connor launches ad linking himself to ... John Kasich? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

DeWine says hands tied on pursuing ECOT -- until trial-court ruling (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Ohio Libertarians submit petition forms to regain minor-party status (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Ohio native Andrew Wheeler, former coal lobbyist, is new EPA leader (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Trump says he doesn't believe allegations against Jim Jordan; new victim emerges (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Congressman Jim Jordan knew about sex abuse at OSU, former wrestlers say (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Medical marijuana in Ohio: 8 key questions answered as the program nears (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Ohio lawmakers respond to EPA chief resignation (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Local dog breeders, retailers react to new anti-puppy-mill law (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Two Ballot Campaigns Spend Holiday Collecting Signatures (WOSU Public Media, 7/6/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: Statehouse security should be applied evenly to all (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Richard Cordray's Nazi analogy was an overreach (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Slavery in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 5:41 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/6/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

7/6/2018



OHIO UNSURE OF STATUS OF 2,300 STUDENTS FROM CLOSED E-SCHOOL

Many of the students enrolled in Ohio's largest online charter school when it closed in January have transferred to other schools, but state officials don't know what happened with about 2,300 students.

OHIO NATIVE ANDREW WHEELER, FORMER COAL LOBBYIST, IS NEW EPA LEADER

The new leader of the Environmental Protection Agency is a former coal industry lobbyist who helped lead an industry fight against regulations that protect Americans' health and address climate change.



DEWINE SAYS HANDS TIED ON PURSUING ECOT -- UNTIL TRIAL-COURT RULING

Responding to critics questioning why it did not take action against ECOT founder Bill Lager years ago, the office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine says its hands were legally tied until a lower court ruling in March.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SUBMIT PETITION FORMS TO REGAIN MINOR-PARTY STATUS

The Libertarian Party of Ohio expects its comeback to succeed, allowing the party to field candidates for governor, U.S. Senate and other offices this fall.

DEMOCRAT DANNY O'CONNOR LAUNCHES AD LINKING HIMSELF TO ... JOHN KASICH?

In a bid to win the support of independents and moderate Republicans, Democratic congressional candidate Danny O'Connor has launched a 30-second TV commercial

featuring an endorsement from a Delaware woman who voted for Ohio Gov. John Kasich and President Donald Trump.

EDITORIAL: STATEHOUSE SECURITY SHOULD BE APPLIED EVENLY TO ALL

It is disappointing that Statehouse security officials and a two-term state representative haven't been able to resolve the lawmaker's allegation that she has been inappropriately hassled multiple times while trying to enter the building.

THE PLAIN DEALER

RIGHT-TO-WORK GROUP DEMANDS OHIO STOP COLLECTING UNION DUES FROM SOME STATE WORKERS

A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened to launch a class-action suit against Ohio and 19 other states if they don't immediately stop deducting union dues from non-union public employees' paychecks following a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

OHIO DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AMENDMENT COULD BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Supporters of a proposal to reduce penalties for nonviolent drug crime offenders submitted hundreds of thousands of signatures on Wednesday to put the measure on the November ballot.

WHAT MEDICAL CONDITIONS CAN BE TREATED WITH MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN OHIO?

The success of a state's medical marijuana program can hinge on what medical conditions qualify a patient for treatment with cannabis.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SEEK A RETURN TO THE BALLOT THIS YEAR

After almost four years in the political wilderness, the Libertarian Party of Ohio is seeking to regain state recognition for the 2018 midterm election.

'RIGHT-TO-WORK' GROUP THREATENS TO SUE OHIO AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING: CAPITOL LETTER

Just due it: A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened Ohio with a lawsuit if it doesn't immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union state workers.

THE ENQUIRER

DIALYSIS TO DUELS: WHY OHIO KEEPS VOTING ON ODD, COMPLICATED BALLOT ISSUES

Are you well-versed in kidney dialysis pricing? Do you understand how Medicaid pays for prescription drugs?

THE BLADE The of America's Great Newspapers

RICHARD CORDRAY'S NAZI ANALOGY WAS AN OVERREACH

Republicans have pounced on Ohio Democratic governor candidate Richard Cordray for referencing Nazis in two recent rallies.

LOCAL DOG BREEDERS, RETAILERS REACT TO NEW ANTI-PUPPY-MILL LAW

Richard Stroshine, co-owner of Stroshine's Studs and Buds in Northwood, is too familiar with the horrors of puppy mills.

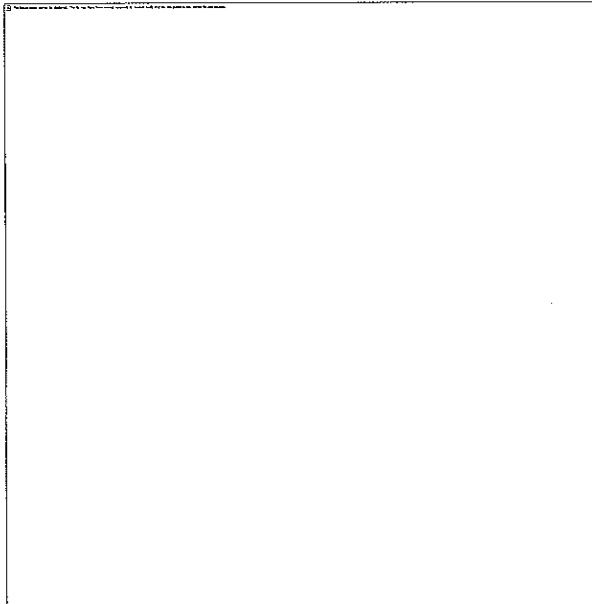
EDITORIAL: SLAVERY IN OHIO

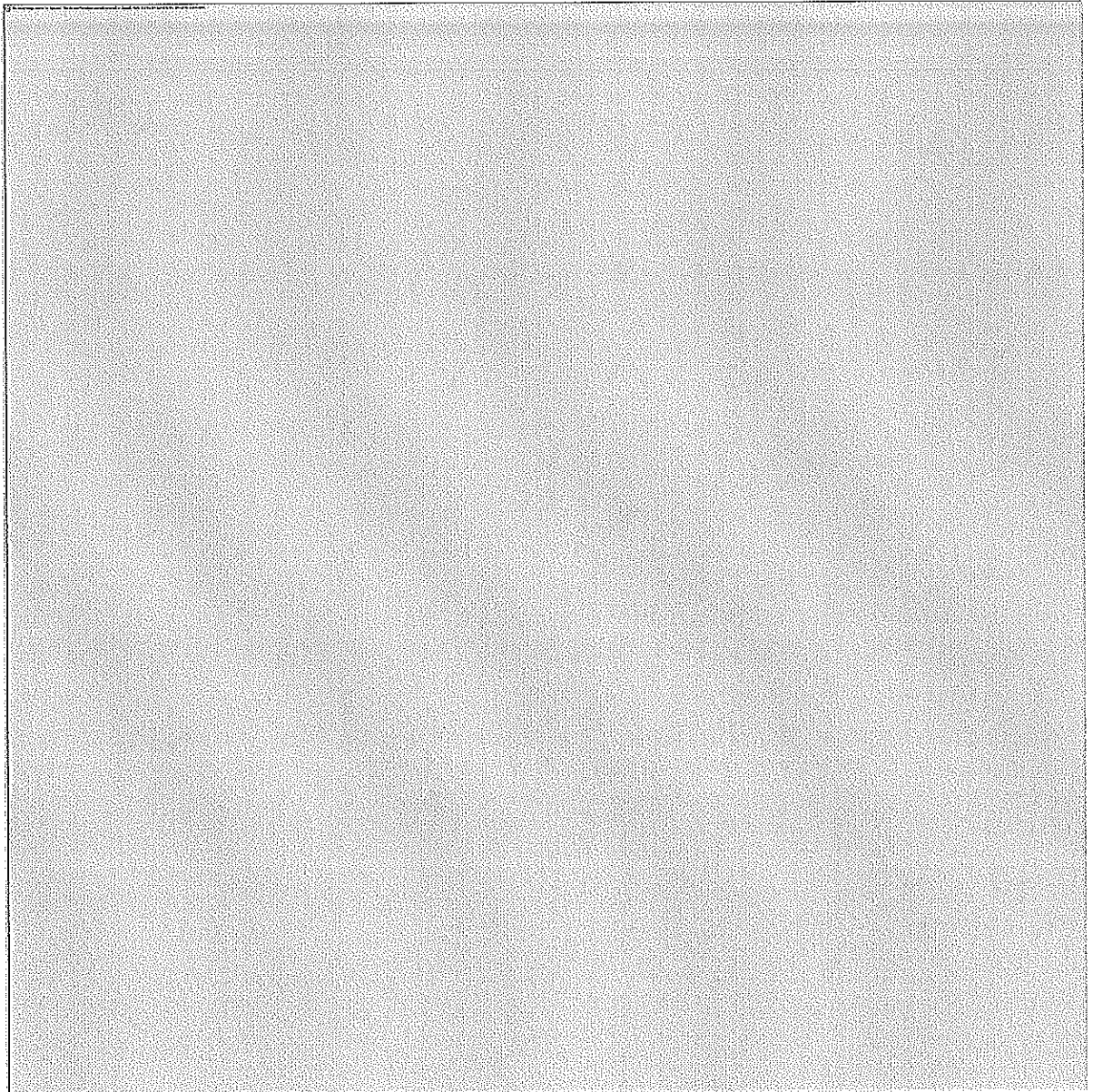
Former U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach is running for Attorney General of Ohio, in part, on the promise that he will focus on human trafficking.

EDITORIAL: REGISTER TO VOTE NOW

If you haven't voted in a while, check to make sure you are registered.

From: Watchdog.org
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2016 6:07 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: State withholds press credentials





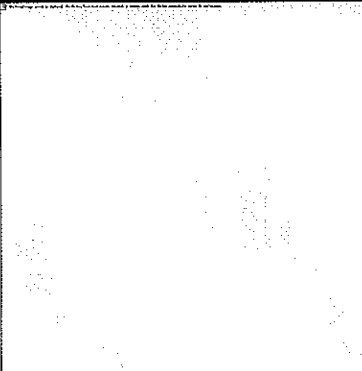
Colorado media certification sparks ethics, First Amendment concerns

Statehouse leaders affirmed a committee of journalists' recommendation to reject press credentials for Watchdog.org. But ethics experts say the decision raises questions about journalistic ethics in the state's vetting process.

[Read more](#)

Trending Articles

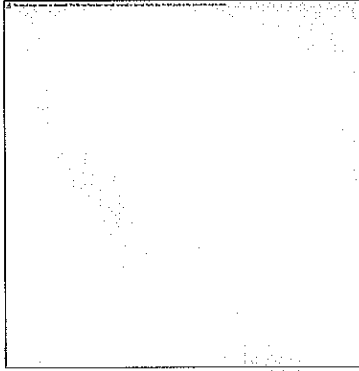
Labor



Are forced union dues key to 'labor peace' for public workers?

Unions argue that forced dues are necessary to maintain "labor peace," but a new study finds that public employees in right-to-work states are "far less likely to disrupt government services by walking out on the job."

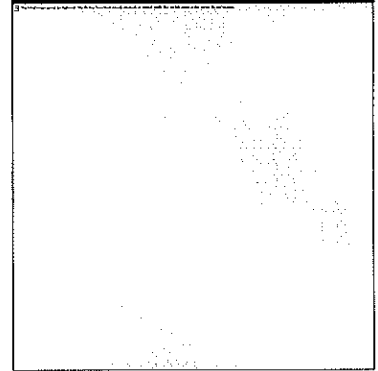
Regulations



California wants to require drivers for self-driving cars

Self-driving cars might revolutionize travel, but they won't bring an end to the DMV, at least not in California. As the state rolls out the first series of regulations for self-driving cars, you'll still need a driver's license to have your car drive for you.

Energy



Kemper power plant could face more delays

More delays could loom for Mississippi's Kemper Project = 2clean coal" power plant, causing the plant's multi-billion dollar cost to continue to rise.

This is bad news for consumers.

Bad Santa: John Doe prosecutor delivers letters to the people he spied on

When all was said and done, 159 people and organizations had their possessions seized by investigators in Wisconsin's unconstitutional John Doe probe int conservatives. Many of them had no idea they were being watched.

Read more

Education

**GOP lawmakers seek
Democrats to help**

save Vermont's school choice

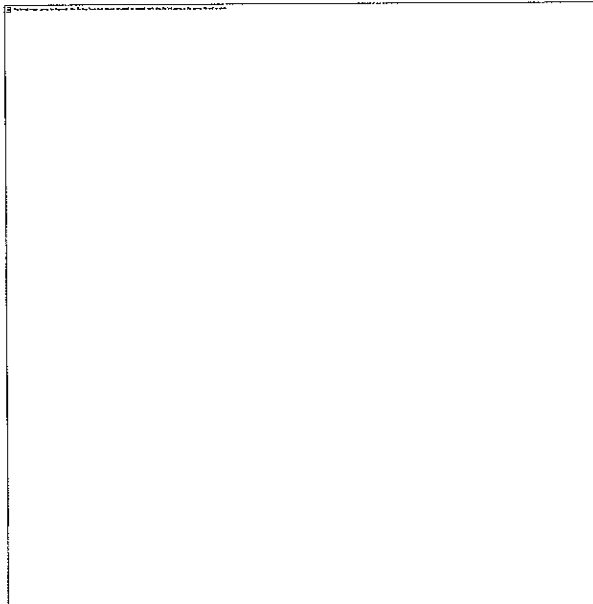
School choice is headed for extinction in Vermont, but with the 2016 legislative session underway, Republican lawmakers say they want to save it. Will Democrats help them do it?

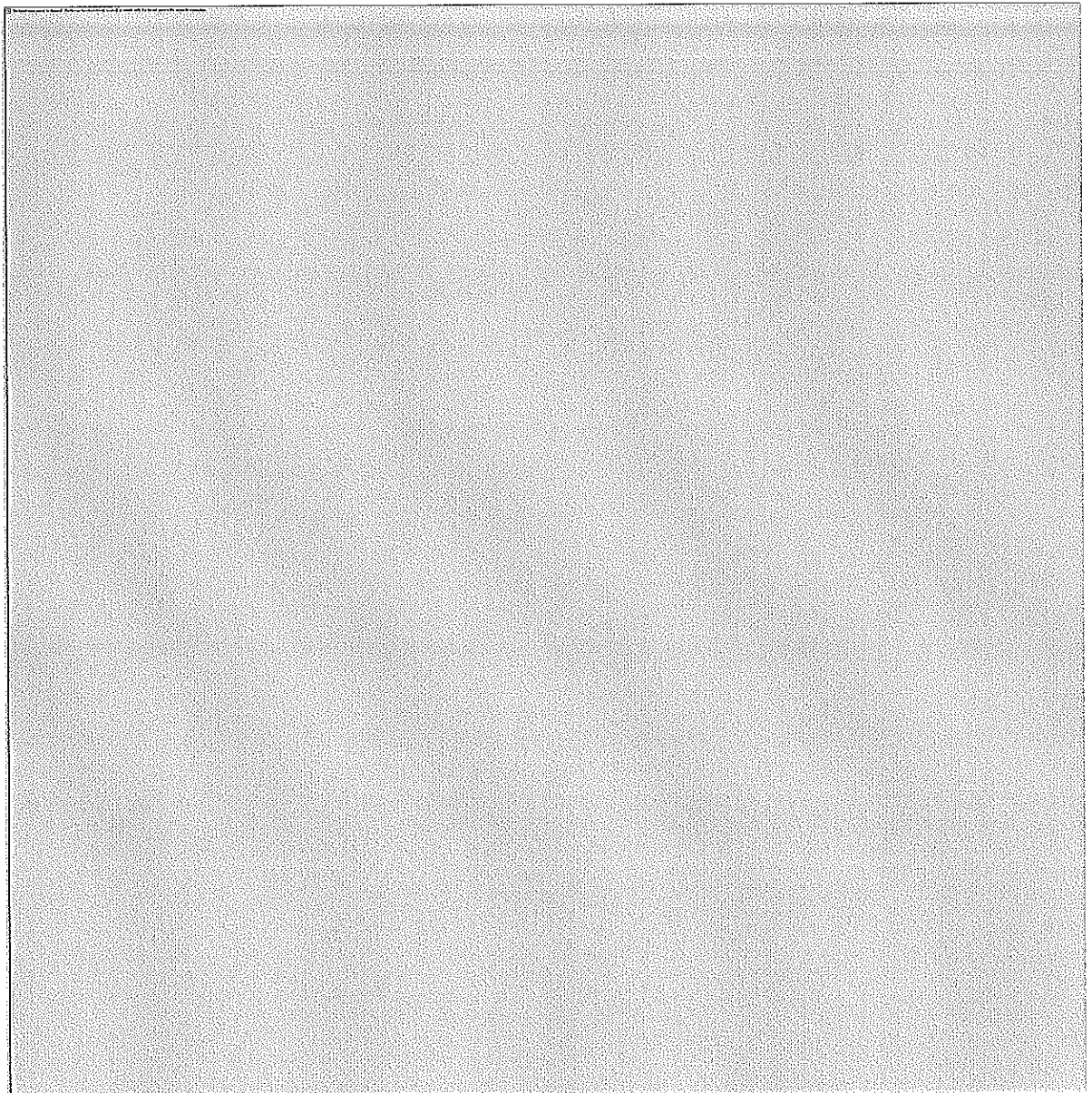
Obamacare

Taxpayers could get hospital fee refund

The Hospital Provider Fee, a tax on medical services, is resulting in a budget crunch in Colorado, but Senate President Bill Cadman said legislative attorneys maintain the fee cannot be exempt from Taxpayer Bill of Rights limits.

From: Watchdog.org
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 7:11 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Are YOU funding lobbyists?





Taxpayers spend more than \$10 million on state lobbyists

Open records requests determined that Colorado state agencies alone will use nearly \$11 million in tax dollars this year to pay the salaries of legislative liaisons and communications staff - and that doesn't include benefits.

[Read more](#)

Trending Articles

First Amendment

First John Doe documents released from lawsuit show GAB's partisan motives

The state Government Accountability Board's conduct in Wisconsin's political "John Doe II" investigation will be up for public review. A judge has issued an order unsealing "the vast majority of the parties' filings" in a lawsuit brought against the GAB.

Health Care

Price controls for prescription drugs probably won't stop price increases

One idea that has been espoused by presidential candidates of both parties would add layers of government red tape to how Americans buy prescription drugs. California, however, might be beating the would-be-presidents to the punch.

Labor

State's right-to-work law goes on trial

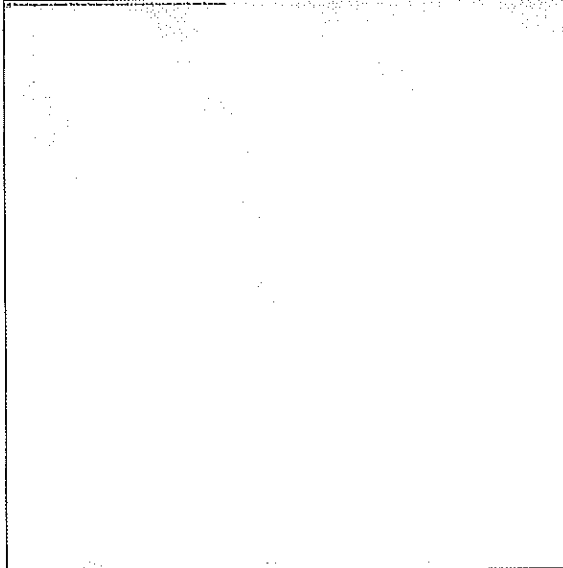
Wisconsin's right-to-work law, signed by Gov. Scott Walker last March, has gone on trial in Dane County, where the Machinists Local Lodge 1061 is arguing that the law is unconstitutional.

Report finds Obama rule could cost low- and middle-income earners billions

A new report by the Senate Homeland Security Committee finds a rule pushed by the Obama administration could cost low- and middle-income investors as much as \$80 billion.

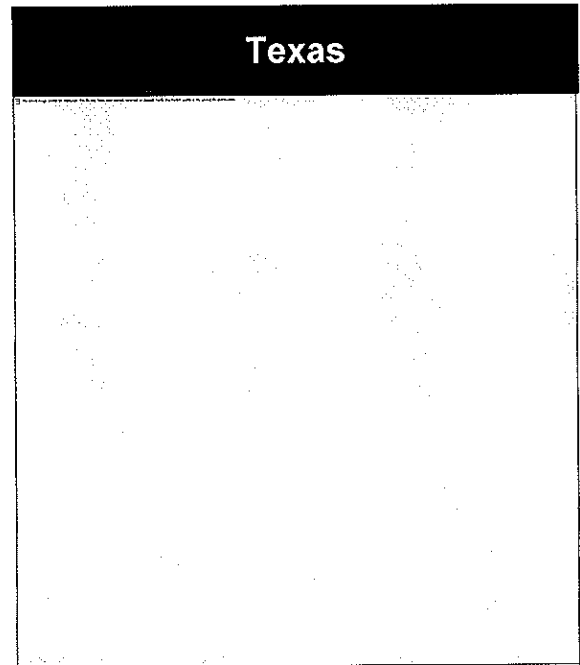
[Read more](#)

Ohio



**Kasich's Obamacare
roadshow reaches
Virginia**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's Obamacare expansion — paid for with new federal deficit spending — is on track to double his \$14 billion cost estimate for 2014-20. And yet his Obamacare roadshow rolls on, this time through Virginia.



= 9

Perry prevails, but prosecution as a political weapon lives on

The return of Rick Perry and his legal team to Sandy's marks the defiant punctuation to a politically motivated prosecution that grew out of his threat to cut off state funding for the Travis County Public Integrity Unit.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:04 PM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 21, 2016
Attachments: Mar21.htm; Mar21House.htm; Mar21Senate.htm;
160321dayplan.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Monday, March 21, 2016

Energy Companies Remain Hopeful For March Ruling On PPAs

Controlling Board Approves Funding For Elections Training, Teacher Certification, Licensure

Riedel Plans To Pursue Right To Work, Push For Economic Development After Toppling Incumbent

Kasich Lags In Money Race, Walks Back Statement On Garland, Announces Arizona Leadership Team And Campaign Stops...

Agency Briefs: AG Rejects Another Pot Petition; Review Of EPA Rules Delayed; Painesville Man Busted For Workers' Comp Fraud; Ballot Board To Meet; Sebring Gets Funds

Politics Notebook: Ramos Looks To Add Early Voting Sites; Portman On Air With Web Ad, Defends Supreme Court Decision; Clyde Up For Award

Capitol Scene: Former Dispatch Editor Marrison Joins Yost Team

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #54 -- Monday, March 21, 2016

Energy Companies Remain Hopeful For March Ruling On PPAs

For more than a year and a half, AEP and FirstEnergy have waited for the Public Utilities Commission's orders on their controversial Power Purchase Agreements - decisions that have been expected to be made in the first quarter of 2016.

But with just one more meeting of the PUCO scheduled for this month, it's possible the wait for one or both decisions could stretch into the second quarter.

The PUCO is scheduled to meet just once more this month - a March 30 meeting for which the agenda has not yet been finalized. The commission will not meet March 23.

Whether the agenda will include one or both cases hasn't yet been determined, but PUCO spokesman Matt Schilling said any belief the ruling will come in the first quarter has been conjecture.

"For what it's worth the commission's never indicated when a decision may be," Mr. Schilling said. "There is lots of speculation out there, but we don't know."

The companies involved and their opponents have been anticipating first quarter orders. Should a decision not come in two weeks' time, the cases a year and a half or more in the making would be poised to continue.

The utilities are hopeful a decision arrives sooner, rather than later. In FirstEnergy's case, for example, the company has two energy auctions scheduled in April under the Electric Security Plan scheduled to begin June 1.

"So we're very hopeful we can get an order in this case so we can proceed with these auctions," spokesman Doug Colafella said. "Because as of June 1, we don't have power supply purchased for our customers."

"I think everyone is hopeful a decision may come as of next meeting. But obviously it's up to commission to put it on the agenda."

AEP spokeswoman Tammy Ridout said the company is "hopeful the commission will issue an order quickly."

"They have all the evidence in hand and we think they should approve the settlement agreement we've proposed," she said. "It's been a long process and we're ready for it to move forward,"

Potentially complicating matters is the ongoing complaints against both PPAs before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel in February urged the PUCO to delay ruling until the FERC cases are settled. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2016)

In their latest filing, the Electric Power Supply Association argued that the companies have failed to rebut the concerns raised in the complaints and FERC "should issue an order as soon as possible granting the complaints."

The group cites opposition from PJM, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Council and others as showing the merits of its case.

"It is rare to see these parties and suppliers in complete agreement on wholesale market issues, and that they are should be a clear sign that, to paraphrase Shakespeare, something is rotten in the state of Ohio," the group wrote.

In their testimony, AEP and FirstEnergy both argue FERC has no jurisdiction in the matter and that the complaints are baseless because the allegations of consumer harm are "misplaced." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

Controlling Board Approves Funding For Elections Training, Teacher Certification, Licensure

Controlling Board members approved \$92,500 in funding for the Secretary of State's office to hold elections training in Cleveland, though one lawmaker questioned why the event wasn't slated for Columbus.

The training event has recently been held either in Columbus as a two-day event or at five locations around the state as one-day events. Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked if having the event in Cleveland could affect turnout for people in distant parts of the state. If turnout is low, he said, it could mean the office would have to come back before the board for more money.

Veronica Sherman, chief financial officer for the secretary of state's office, said she didn't expect to need more money.

"I think the cost that we have laid out here is the high end of the parameter and we would not expect to have to come back for more money," she said.

The office wanted to have only one event because it allows for more intensive training, she said.

Sen. Tom Sawyer (D-Akron) questioned part of a request from the Department of Education for \$3.2 million over two years for teacher certification and licensure, which includes the Office of Professional Conduct. The proposal cited an increase in the number of open cases, partially because of high-profile data manipulation scandals.

Sen. Sawyer asked if the department was targeting any particular types of schools or other programs in investigating data manipulation. Aaron Rausch, the department's director of budget and school funding, said they focused on individuals, not broad types of school districts.

"We appreciate that you don't want to go out on a witch hunt, but having said that, knowing that you're well targeted gives us more comfort," Sen. Sawyer said.

Mr. Rausch said the data manipulation cases are part of the increased load at the Office of Professional Conduct, but are not the only reason for the increase. Other things that have increased the caseload include a program that tracks the backgrounds of teachers and employees after they have been hired, finding any new hits to their record while they are working.

"Just in general there has been an increase in the caseload of the Office of Professional Conduct," he said.

The Controlling Board also approved a new contract the Department of Administrative Services reached with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council. The contract covers more than 500 employees statewide in eight state agencies, said Kristen Rankin, interim deputy director for the Office of Collective Bargaining.

The contract runs through June 30, 2018, and is similar to past contracts, though changes include switching from an annual clothing allowance to reimbursement and modifying the drug-free workplace policy to prohibit employees from working if they have blood alcohol contents above 0.02.

A request for \$1.45 million from the Development Services Agency for programs aimed at revitalizing distressed communities was deferred at the agency's request.

Other items approved by the board included requests for (Agenda):

- \$4.4 million from the Court of Claims for the payment of a wrongful imprisonment settlement for Kwame Ajamu, formerly Ronnie Bridgeman, and Wiley Bridgeman.
- \$615,852 from the Department of Natural Resources for geological mapping.
- \$1.9 million from the Ohio State University for a higher education system maintenance and upgrade project. The system manages data on student enrollment, courses, financial aid and more.
- \$3.1 million from OSU for roof and electrical repairs for three buildings on the Marion campus.
- \$4 million from the Development Services Agency for affordable housing assistance grants.

- \$1.9 million from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for a number of projects to clean up polluted sites.

Riedel Plans To Pursue Right To Work, Push For Economic Development After Toppling Incumbent

Although he was an outsider in a primary race against an incumbent, businessman Craig Riedel has had no shortage of attention from Columbus since winning his bid to head to the statehouse in January.

The Defiance Republican edged out Rep. Tony Burkley (R-Paulding) in last week's primary to represent Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert and part of Auglaize counties.

Lacking a Democrat competitor in the November election, Mr. Riedel, 49, will be headed to the Statehouse next year. After a brief hiatus from campaigning, he said he'll begin crafting his agenda by meeting with fellow lawmakers who've already begun courting him.



Craig Riedel

"I'm in a major learning curve right now. I'm going to take the summer to meet with those other representatives who've reached out to me that want to talk to me and let me know what I might expect as to how things operate," said the newcomer, who had never run for a political office before retiring from a management position at Nucor Corporation in July to pursue the House seat.

Mr. Riedel said he'll also be familiarizing himself with the capital city, having only spent a brief amount of time at the Statehouse during the last General Assembly.

Ironically, that visit was a "shadowing" of Rep. Burkley while the incumbent performed his state rep duties. Unbeknownst to his host, Mr. Riedel would soon be angling for his job.

Mr. Riedel said he asked Mr. Burkley for the opportunity because he wanted to learn more about the legislature.

When the House GOP first threw its financial support behind Rep. Burkley, Mr. Riedel said he was confused because no one in the party had gotten to know him. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2016)

It's customary for both parties to protect their incumbents, especially in key elections where candidates have well-financed and organized campaigns like that of Mr. Riedel. However, the winner of Tuesday's election said he was able to pull off a victory despite the powers-that-be because voters trust him.

"I think the people we met, they saw the sincerity in my words and my life and they had the confidence in me that I was going to go to Columbus and truly represent them and that I would not be afraid to be criticized or that I wouldn't be afraid to go against the line when I felt it was necessary," he said.

At the risk of upsetting the party, Mr. Riedel said that while he's planning to vote mostly with his peers, he won't be afraid to lead on conservative issues that haven't yet been tackled, such as making Ohio a so-called "right to work" state.

Working with Nucor Corporation for 27 years, he said he saw a number of businesses choose to settle in neighboring states such as Indiana or Michigan because workers in those states are not required to join unions.

"I understand why unions may be necessary but what I believe is an individual should have a right to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union or not," he said. "I think it's wrong that you're required in Ohio to join a union if there is a union in your facility. You should have that freedom of choice."

Working in private business his entire career, Mr. Riedel said he understands how important teamwork is to being successful, however sticking to one's principals is just as important.

"I'm always going to be very respectful and of the Republican Party and I'm very conservative, but I'm always going to do what I think is right and there are going to be times when that goes divergent from what the Republicans would like me to do," he said.

"My bosses are my God and the constituents of the 82nd House District. That's who I'm going to answer to. I'm always going to do what I believe is the right thing to do," Mr. Riedel continued.

Having already knocked on the doors of 4,400 constituents with his wife, Danette, leading up to the election, he said he'll continue meeting with people in his district and find out what issues they care most about.

Another priority will be meeting with business and civic groups to determine the best way to meet his goals of reducing taxes and business regulations as well as spurring economic development, Mr. Riedel said.

Kasich Lags In Money Race, Walks Back Statement On Garland, Announces Arizona Leadership Team And Campaign Stops...

Gov. John Kasich trails competitors Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and billionaire Donald Trump in the race to secure enough delegates to secure the Republican Party's nomination for president.

He also trails in the money race.

Gov. Kasich reported \$1.25 million on hand at the beginning of March, according to his latest campaign finance report filed with the Federal Election Commission. In February, he raised \$3.4 million and spent \$3.6 million.

Sen. Cruz began the month of March with \$8 million on hand. He raised \$11.8 million and spent \$17.5 million in February.

Mr. Trump had \$1.6 million on hand at the beginning of March. He raised just \$2 million in February, but loaned his campaign nearly \$7 million during the month, bring the total to \$24.3 million since entering the campaign. He spent \$9.5 million in February.

Garland: Over the weekend, the governor was forced to walk back a comment he made about President Barack Obama's pick to fill the seat of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

During a taped interview for CBS' "Face the Nation," Gov. Kasich suggested he would consider nominating Merrick Garland to a seat on the bench.

He later said that statement was made "in an effort to be polite."

"Look, you know, Garland's - I'm going have my own picks for Supreme Court," he said. "You know, the fact is, I said that they ought to meet him and talk to him, and I'm not going to pick somebody who's, you know, obviously not a respecter of the Second Amendment. I don't want people making law and so nobody should be confused, worked up or upset. He's not going to be my pick for the Supreme Court."

Also, during a taped interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Gov. Kasich ruled out the possibility of being the running mate of either Sen. Cruz or Mr. Trump.

Leadership Team: Ahead of Tuesday's primary contest in Arizona, Gov. Kasich announced his leadership team there that includes two state lawmakers, two former chiefs of staff to governors, a disability rights advocate and several activists.

"We have a great team in Arizona," Gov. Kasich said. "I am very appreciative of their help to share our positive message to strengthen our country and bring real solutions to the America people."

Campaign Stops: Gov. Kasich on Monday was one of four presidential candidates scheduled to address the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference.

In his speech to AIPAC, Gov. Kasich made a pitch based on experience, according to *Politico*.

On Wednesday, he is scheduled to hold a town hall event in Wisconsin, where he picked up the endorsement of former Treasurer Jack Voight.

Draft Kasich Movement: According to *New York Times Magazine* writer Robert Draper, the GOP establishment is not rushing to get on board the bandwagon for Gov. Kasich to secure the party's nomination in a brokered process.

According to Mr. Draper, party insiders are rejecting the movement because of his poor showing in most states, along with his support for Medicaid expansion and embrace of Common Core, despite helping to balance the budget as chairman of the House Budget Committee.

"But there's a third layer of resistance to Kasich, one with which Cruz can identify: Many Beltway Republicans don't like him," he writes.

"No doubt Chairman Kasich's strict budgets made life unpleasant for a few lobbyists. But so did his demeanor - which, D.C. veterans say, was often sanctimonious and rude," he continued.

Campaign Continues: Despite needing more than 100 percent of remaining elected delegates to secure the party's nomination, Gov. Kasich on Monday again reiterated that he has no plans to get out of the race.

Speaking on CNN's "New Day" on Monday morning, the governor said a brokered convention will be "an extension of this primary process."

"If I'm the only one that can beat Hillary in the fall, why would anybody say I should leave? I mean that's just -- that's nuts," he said.

Agency Briefs: AG Rejects Another Pot Petition; Review Of EPA Rules Delayed; Painesville Man Busted For Workers' Comp Fraud; Ballot Board To Meet; Sebring Gets Funds

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday rejected petition language for a ballot measure to make medicinal marijuana legal in Ohio.

The petition, Medicinal Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Amendment, was submitted by Grassroots OH with more than 2,000 signatures.

However, Mr. DeWine found two defects in the summary language, including the lack of references to proposed amendment language that "industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis shall be researched, regulated, and promoted by the state in a manner substantially similar to other agricultural crops" and another section that states 21-year-olds have "equal opportunity to access, ownership, and employment."

On Friday, Mr. DeWine rejected petition language filed by Ohio Medical Cannabis Care LLC based on 11 defects. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 18, 2016)

Since 2011, Mr. DeWine has rejected petition language for 13 measures dealing with marijuana.

A decision on the proposed language of another medical marijuana ballot measure is scheduled to be released Friday.

JCARR: Amid concerns raised by some municipalities, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review put off a hearing on Ohio EPA rules that came out of legislation (SB 1⁰⁰) designed to deal with toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie.

The regulations include monitoring and reporting of harmful algal blooms in public water systems.

"We just felt there had to be a few more questions asked," Chairman Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) said following the meeting.

According to Sen. Uecker, the rules are expected to be back on the agenda for review at the April 4 meeting.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation: A Lake County man was convicted of workers' compensation fraud after the agency's Special Investigations Department captured video of him working as a handyman.

Mark Walker, who was receiving temporary total disability, was ordered to repay nearly \$75,000 in benefits he collected over a five-year period. He was also sentenced to 12 to 18 months incarceration, which was suspended for three years of community control.

"The purpose of temporary total disability is to give injured workers time to recuperate, and work activity during that recovery period is prohibited," BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer said. "Mr. Walker deceptively returned to employment for several years and continued to collect thousands of dollars from BWC."

Secretary of State: The Ballot Board is scheduled to meet Wednesday and will take up two ballot measures, one a proposed initiative designed to boost the clean energy industry and the other a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban former lawmakers from lobbying for two years after leaving office, and cap most legislators' pay at the annual median household income in Ohio.

Sebring Water Grant: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the Village of Sebring a \$400,000 grant to assist with water quality improvements, a development welcomed by state and federal lawmakers.

"This grant will help provide much needed upgrades to Sebring's water system but the work is far from over," Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said in a statement. "We need to acknowledge that water quality issues will continue to plague our communities until our state makes an honest investment into fixing our crumbling underground water and sewer infrastructure."

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman stated, "I'm pleased that federal authorities are helping Sebring ensure its water supply is safe. As we move forward, I hope the Senate will act in a bipartisan way to help Ohio and other areas of the country who have similar needs. I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that all Ohioans have access to clean and safe drinking water."

Lead-tainted water in the village and officials' slow reaction in alerting residents has led to fallout at the local level, where the Ohio EPA announced violations, and at the state level, where two agency employees were fired following a review of the circumstances. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2016)

At the federal level, both Mr. Portman and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) have backed related legislation on clean water issues, which have come to the forefront in recent months due to lead tainted water in Flint, Mich., Sebring and elsewhere. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 3, 2016)

Politics Notebook: Ramos Looks To Add Early Voting Sites; Portman On Air With Web Ad, Defends Supreme Court Decision; Clyde Up For Award

One state lawmaker is advocating for an increased number of early voting sites.

Rep. Dan Ramos plans legislation that would allow counties to have one early voting location for every 60,000 residents. The additional early voting sites would require the approval of a county board of commissioners or, in case of Cuyahoga and Summit counties, the chartered governing body.

"With early voting for the primary recently concluding in Ohio, I believe it is time to examine and address an inequality in the system," he said. "With such variation in population, a 'one-size fits all' approach that limits the number of early voting centers does not adequately encourage public participation in the democratic process."

Under the proposal, 23 counties would be eligible to open at least one additional early voting center, according to Rep. Ramos.

"Voting is a right central to what makes us American, and this bill expands access to that right," Ramos said. "Allowing more early voting locations closer to home will benefit both

suburban and township voters outside of the city center, as well as lower income voters with limited transportation options."

Senate Race: The campaign of Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is up with a web ad touting his work to help Hebron-based ArmorSource secure a federal contract.

According to the ad, the company has added 200 jobs since inking the deal.

In a Sunday op-ed for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Sen. Portman defended his decision to join with fellow Senate Republicans in refusing to hold hearings on President Barack Obama's choice to fill the seat of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"I have concluded that the best thing for the country is to trust the American people to weigh in and to have the confirmation process take place in a less partisan atmosphere," he wrote. "Awaiting the result of a democratic election, rather than having a nomination fight in this contentious election-year environment, will give the nominee more legitimacy and, as then - Senator Biden pointed out, better preserve the institutional credibility of the Senate and the court."

The decision has earned praise from the Judicial Crisis Network, which is launching a \$2 million TV, radio and digital ad campaign in six states, including Ohio.

"The goal of this effort is to inform and alert the citizens of Ohio that in opposing President Obama's third liberal nominee to the Supreme Court, Senator Portman is also opposing liberal domination of the court and that, with the presidential election so close, he is right to allow the people of Ohio a voice in this lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court," Carrie Severino, chief counsel for JCN and a former U.S. Supreme Court clerk, said in a statement.

"As a federal judge, Garland has made rulings undermining the Second Amendment rights of Ohioans as well as defended expansive, unchecked power of federal agencies such as the EPA, decisions that harm Ohio small businesses," she continued.

The move has drawn criticism from Democrats, including Sen. Portman's general election opponent, former Gov. Ted Strickland. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 16, 2016)

Sen. Portman also announced on Monday the addition of Michawn Rich as his campaign's communications director.

"We are very excited to have Michawn Rich join us as we kick off the general election," campaign manager Corry Bliss said. "Michawn's discipline and experience in competitive races - including 2014's most competitive congressional race in the country - will be a great addition to our team. She is a seasoned communicator who will help us contrast Rob's vision for a brighter future with why Ohio can't go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio when the state lost over 350,000 jobs and ranked 48th in job creation."

Clyde Nominated For Award: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) on Monday urged people to vote for Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) to receive the Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award by EMILY's List.

"Kathleen is one of Ohio's biggest rising stars. She's an outspoken advocate for voting rights, and even in our state's conservative legislature, Kathleen has proven an effective fighter for Ohio's women and workers," he said.

Ms. Clyde also announced that she will make stops in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati with author Ari Berman to discuss his new book, *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*.

Capitol Scene: Former Dispatch Editor Marrison Joins Yost Team

State Auditor Dave Yost said Monday he's hired Ben Marrison, the former *Columbus Dispatch* editor, as his communications director.

He replaces Carrie Bartunek, who was named senior policy adviser for public affairs.

"Ben's extensive media experience and management expertise will be a great addition to our office," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "He is a trusted name in Columbus and all over the state of Ohio, and we are fortunate to have him join our team."

Mr. Marrison, 52, previously worked for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Toledo Blade*. He starts his new post April 4 with an annual salary of \$105,000.

"The state auditor's office embodies those things that I always tried to do as a journalist: be transparent, provide public access and hold people accountable. I have a great deal of respect for the way Dave Yost has conducted himself as state auditor and as Delaware County prosecutor. His decisions are rooted in doing the right things by taxpayers without regard to politics," Marrison said.

"The position of director of communications provides me the opportunity to continue my public service, to help citizens understand how their money is being spent, and to better understand government operations -- something I've been fascinated with since my earliest days as a reporter."

Mr. Marrison, a Pickerington resident, holds a journalism degree from Bowling Green State University.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-010. Requested by Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard.
SYLLABUS:

The judges of a court of common pleas, in the reasonable exercise of their discretion, may expend moneys generated by the court's special projects fee imposed pursuant to R.C. 2303.201(E)(1) to purchase incentives that reward a participant's compliance with the terms of the court's drug court program, provided the judges determine that the incentives contribute to the efficient operation of the court.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, March 23

Ballot Board, Senate Finance Haring Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 2:30 p.m. (The board will meet to determine whether each of the proposed constitutional amendments known as the "Ohio Clean Energy Initiative" and the "Ohio Ethics First Amendment" contain only one proposed amendment.)

Thursday, March 24

BWC Nominating Council, Conf. Rms. B&C, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Optical Dispensers Board, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, April 6

Senate Republican candidate Frank Hoagland fundraiser, The Galley, 203 Second St., Marietta, 4:30 p.m., (Host - \$1,000; Sponsor - \$500; Individual - \$350 to Hoagland for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 12

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1,000; Sponsor - \$500; Individual - \$350 to The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

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House Activity for Monday, March 21, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 492 ■ **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (Rogers, J., Driehaus, D.)** To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation. Am. 131.43, 131.44, and 164.01 and to enact section 164.18.

HB 493 ■ **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Sears, B., Ryan, S.)** To make changes in the child abuse and neglect reporting law. Am. 307.627, 2151.421, 2151.422, 2151.99, 3701.701, 5153.16, 5153.175, and 5153.176.

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Senate Activity for Monday, March 21, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 297

STUDENT EXPULSIONS (Hughes, J.) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds. Am. 3313.66 and 3313.661 and to enact section 3313.668.

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Volume #86, Report #151 -- Monday, August 7, 2017

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Controlling Board members on Monday approved a new contract for a Columbus law firm to do consulting work on collective bargaining issues after lawmakers asked about the job and procurement process for the contract.

Without objection, the board approved the \$480,000 contract between the Department of Administrative Services and Baker Hostetler, LLP. The firm will provide labor relations and collective bargaining consulting and negotiation services.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked if the state was developing the internal capacity to handle labor issues and contracts without having to pay outside help.

Jennifer Leymaster, chief financial officer for DAS, said negotiations for large contracts often require outside assistance.

"It is customary for us to seek outside consulting services when doing the negotiation for these major contracts, as I believe is customary for organizations of our size," she said.

Kristen Rankin, deputy director for the DAS Office of Collective Bargaining, said the work fluctuates year-to-year as different contracts come up for renewal.

She said the state has been working with Baker Hostetler since 2014 and the firm has a good understanding of the state's labor relations.

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked about the increase in the value of the contract this year, up from about \$300,000 last year.

Ms. Rankin said the state is entering negotiations with its largest union this year, meaning there will be more work ahead.

The board also approved several contracts from the treasurer's office after Sen. Tavares asked for the reasoning behind waiving competitive selection.

Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf said all of the items were continuations of ongoing projects. In one case, the office did receive another bid, but it was significantly higher than the bid by the existing contract. That project involves custom-built software designed by the current contractor.

"We suspect that the additional bid was very high because the learning curve for a new provider would have been significant," he said.

The board approved a request for more than \$8.3 million over two years from DAS for a contract for postage funds. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked if other firms, such as Stamps.com, might be able to offer the state better rates.

Ms. Leymaster said firms like Stamps.com might not be able to handle the volume of mail the state sends out, but that DAS would look into it.

The board accepted a transfer of \$2.2 million from the Emergency Management Agency into its emergency fund, repaying the final payment of the money used to reimburse states that sent law enforcement to help at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last year. The EMA said it has received reimbursement from Cleveland for all of the 18 states that assisted.

A request for \$605,961 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the fire alarm system at Cambridge Developmental Center was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

- \$534,000 - Central State University - for a library structural repair and modernization project.
- \$3.2 million - Clark State Community College - for renovation of Rhodes Hall.
- \$2.4 million - Columbus State Community College - for the Culinary and Hospitality School building project.
- \$226,275 - Department of Health - to purchase cystic fibrosis test kits.
- \$374,400 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - for a contract for forensic psychiatric services at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- \$1.2 million - Department of Developmental Disabilities - to contract with various providers for early intervention hearing services for children.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Natural Resources - for a contract amendment to provide construction administration and material testing at Buckeye Lake Dam.
- \$5.3 million - ODNR - to contract for improvements at a variety of state parks.
- \$749,510 - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace the roof at the Corrections Training Academy in Orient.
- \$53.6 million - Department of Transportation - for contracts with 52 consulting firms for a variety of services.

- \$212,154 - Bureau of Workers' Compensation - to renew a contract for IT services analyzing business processes.

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

The sponsor of a bill to exempt the seriously mentally ill from the death penalty expects the measure to move in the fall.

The legislation (HB 81) would exempt from the death penalty those diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder or delusional disorder at the time a capital offense was committed.



Bill Seitz

"I'm raring and ready to go as soon as we get back to try and move this forward in the House," sponsoring Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview.

The bill has had three hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee. Rep. Seitz said he was ready to move the measure prior to lawmakers leaving town for summer vacations, but he was told to hold off.

"We were really ready to go at the end of session back a month ago, but they wanted to keep controversial things off the radar screen as we focused all of our attention on the conference committee process and budget overrides and things like that," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) expressed uncertainty about the fate of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

But Rep. Seitz said he is confident about the bill's prospects in the upper chamber.

"All I can tell Senator Bacon is that when I had the bill the last time in that chamber, there were 31 of 33 senators ready to vote for it. Maybe he hasn't started counting noses yet," he said, adding that the two opponents of the last version of the bill are now serving in the House.

The bill has run into stiff opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Executive Director John Murphy has said that current law already provides those suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to be deemed incompetent to stand trial or mount a not guilty by reasons of insanity defense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 6, 2017)

Despite the opposition, Rep. Seitz does not believe the OPAA will be able to sink the bill.

"It's got an awful lot of support and the only people that have come out against it are the prosecutors and their reasoning doesn't satisfy me," he said. "They were opposed to it the last time on the same basis."

Given the state's recent resumption of the death penalty, Rep. Seitz believes the bill will gain even more traction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

"I think with all the recent furor over the resumption of executions in Ohio people ought to at least recognize this for progress in terms of narrowing the range of cases in which the death penalty may be imposed," he said.

The legislation is based off of one of several recommendations made by the Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

"The bottom line is this was a central recommendation of the death penalty task force," Rep. Seitz said.

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Legislation first offered last year and introduced again in June intends to increase awareness and access to palliative care for patients with serious health conditions.

The bill (HB 286), sponsored by Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), would establish a state council to oversee palliative care and create programs to raise awareness and utilization of the approach.



Rep. LaTourette

It's a personal issue for the sponsor. Her father, former U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, received palliative care before his death last year from pancreatic cancer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

"I saw the dramatic difference that access to early palliative care had on his life and our lives," Rep. LaTourette said in an interview. "I want everybody in the state to be aware that palliative care is not just hospice care."

Rep. LaTourette first introduced the measure (HB603, 131st General Assembly) toward the end of the last General Assembly. It received a hearing before the House Health and Aging Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 26, 2016)

The new version of the bill retains almost all of that proposal's components but does not include provisions that would levy fees or fines on hospitals that don't comply, she said. That has eased some concerns from industry groups, she said.

The move toward expanding the reach of palliative care is a priority for advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, who included the practice on their annual report card for state cancer policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

Jeff Stephens, ACS CAN's state government relations director for Ohio, said the group is also working on similar legislation at the federal level.

"It's a form of treatment that's been proven to increase health outcomes at a reduced overall health care cost. It works," he said.

The bill would create an interdisciplinary advisory council at the Department of Health and create a set of criteria to identify patients who are best suited to the care approach.

"We do a pretty OK job of offering it in Ohio but we need to build the pipeline of professionals who are coming into to this treatment and we need to educate patients about what palliative care is," he said.

Mr. Stephens said it's important for providers to consider how different palliative care can look in different parts of the state. While it typically includes the treating doctor, a pharmacist, social workers, spiritual leaders and others who surround the patient with support, that team could look different in rural areas than it would in cities with access to wide varieties of professionals.

"We're all very hopeful there's going to be movement on that this fall," he said.

The proposal hasn't yet been assigned to a committee, but Rep. LaTourette said it will probably go through the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

"My hope is that shortly after we come back for the fall that we start moving quickly," she said.

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

A long-delayed federal plan to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes was released Monday after months of prodding from congressional delegates in Ohio and other states.

The report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spells out \$275 million in proposals to upgrade the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois in order to shield the lakes from the invasive species.

Ideas in the report include electric barriers, flushing locks, water jets, and complex noise generation. If approved, the project has an estimated completion date of 2025, according to the report. Critics have argued the plan could impede commercial traffic in the region.

The 488-page report was originally slated for release in February, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. Democrats have contended that the decision to delay the report was political in nature. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 1, 2017)

"It is encouraging to see that the U.S. Army Corps' recommendations include serious measures to deal with this invasive species," U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) said in a statement. "Now that we have real information on costs we can move on and receive input from stakeholders, whose livelihoods depend on us keeping the Asian carp out of the Lakes."

Both she and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) earlier this year introduced standalone legislation that would have forced the Trump Administration to make the study public. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2017)

"We are now one step closer to taking action to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp," Sen. Brown said, "and I look forward to working with Sen. Portman and my other

Great Lakes colleagues to turn this report into concrete actions that will benefit our Lakes."

The discovery of an Asian carp in June just nine miles from Lake Michigan added new urgency to the matter. It also prompted state officials to enter the fray, with Attorney General Mike DeWine writing late last month to the Department of the Army and saying the delay "in the face of this immediate threat is unacceptable." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2017)

There will now be a 45-day public review period for the draft report, ending Sept. 21. Comments will be accepted online, by letter and at public meetings yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the lakes and the local economies they support must be protected.

"The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry and Lake Erie contributes more than \$10 billion to Ohio's tourism industry, both of which would be jeopardized if Asian Carp were allowed into the Great Lakes," he said. "It is important that the Corps remain on schedule to finalize the plan by January of 2019, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Corps to do just that."

Environmental groups praised the release, with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and several other groups issuing a joint statement.

"We look forward to reviewing the findings in detail and to continuing the conversation on this critical issue with elected officials and concerned citizens during the public comment period," the groups said. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must listen carefully to public input on the study and then move quickly from study to implementation of additional protection measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, a logical choke point in the system."

The Ohio Conservation Federation and its counterparts from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin issued a similar joint statement.

"After months of unnecessary delay, we are excited that the potential options for improving defenses against Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will see the light of day," they said. "There is still much work yet to be done in this process. We look forward to working towards securing stronger protections to keep Asian carp out of our Great Lakes."

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

The company behind the Rover Pipeline project told federal regulators it believes it's possible traces of diesel fuel found in wetland spills earlier this year were planted by "malicious" opponents.

But environmental groups say the company is attempting to divert attention from Rover's actions and that increased security around the spill sites - by both the company and state regulators who were investigating the spills - renders the idea of sabotage "farfetched."

It's the latest back and forth between Rover Pipeline LLC, its parent Energy Transfer Partners, and advocates urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of the 700-mile pipeline that has been at the center of controversy for months.

In its most recent filing (PDF) before FERC, the company for the first time agreed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that diesel fuel was present in millions of gallons of drilling mud spilled into Ohio wetlands at several sites earlier this year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

But Rover stopped short of accepting the blame, saying it "has no evidence that the diesel was the result of a spill or failed containment" experienced during its horizontal drilling and construction activity.

"This data alone, however, does not demonstrate that diesel fluid (or other petroleum hydrocarbons) entered the slurry as part of the HDD process or that there was a widespread impact," the company wrote.

"Rover theorizes that these diesel concentrations could have been caused by an inadvertent and unreported spill or leak from equipment operating during the clean-up...or it could have been the deliberate or malicious act of individuals opposed to the project," the company continued. "Given the extensive inspection and oversight at this and other sites along the project, it is difficult to imagine that this occurred from an unreported spill or leak."

Cheryl Johncox of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign rejected that claim. She said in an interview that OEPA testing revealed fuel traces at several different sites.

"It's very unlikely somebody trying to sabotage the project would know where those sampling locations were," she said. "The other thing of note is this occurred on private property...(and) they were very actively patrolling that spill site and keeping people off. It's very unlikely somebody was able to access that area in order to sabotage the project."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, said the company's claims are the latest demonstration of the company's "lack of respect for Ohioans and our environment."

"Claiming they were sabotaged or framed without any evidence whatsoever is merely another attempt for Rover to deflect blame and avoid owning up to the consequences of their actions," she said. "We are taught in kindergarten to clean up after ourselves, and Rover should remember this important childhood lesson."

Regardless of how the fuel entered the slurry, the company said it is "deeply troubled by any of these potential scenarios and has taken steps to address these possible sources."

Those steps include reiterating to employees and contractors that all construction must adhere to the FERC certificate and other spill prevention and response procedures. Additionally, it will remind workers that secondary containment must be used for equipment working in or near wetlands and bodies of water and prompt notification is required for spills of hazardous materials.

In the event an outside agent introduced fuel to the situation, the company said it has increased security to oversee the Tuscarawas site and has "increased scrutiny of all personnel entering and leaving all HDD sites."

The filing comes one week after Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, which is Rover's parent company, told federal lawmakers he was "baffled" by criticism of the company and allegations of rule violations from regulators and congressional Democrats following the spills.

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Equal pay and charter school funding are the subjects of hot-button measures recently introduced by two Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) is behind legislation (SB 174) she dubbed the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required Act."

"It is shameful that in this day and age women in Ohio make only 78 cents for every dollar made by a man. Without question, equal work deserves equal pay," she said in a release announcing the bill. "At a time when women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families, it is absolutely critical to ensure that they earn a wage commensurate with their work - and on par with a man's."

The bill would require employers to substantiate pay differences, prohibit retaliation against workers who discuss salaries with colleagues and bar wage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"While the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 improved some laws that govern pay discrimination, more must be done to close the wage gap and increase the economic security of women," Sen. Tavares said. "Fair pay would help close the wage gap and increase women's economic security."

Charter Overpayments: A gubernatorial candidate meanwhile is touting a measure to require all money recovered from overpayments to charter schools to be returned to district from which it was deducted. It comes on the heels of the state's plans to claw back funding from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow over inflated enrollment data.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said his legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

"Ohio schools are struggling to manage after several years of cuts to their funding. It's only right that the state should return all money taken from these schools in error," he said. "This bill is simple: it creates a uniform rule that all money overpaid to charter schools is sent back to the affected school districts."

Endorsements Announced: Other gubernatorial candidates continue to rack up endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) announced the backing of Julie Prince in his bid to replace Gov. John Kasich. She directed Ohio operations and grassroots for Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

"In the 2018 gubernatorial race, there is one clear choice for conservatives across Ohio, and that choice is Jim Renacci. Time and again Jim has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to the conservative reforms we need, but which entrenched Columbus insiders have failed to deliver," she said. "Jim is not afraid to take on the establishment or the career politicians who continue to pay lip service to conservatism while perpetuating the status quo."

Added Rep. Renacci: "In her position as the Grassroots and Operations Director for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign in Ohio, Julie played an instrumental role in advancing the causes of conservatism and liberty - not just for our state, but for our nation as a whole. I am proud to serve as a voice for conservatives across Ohio in this critically important election, and I am committed to delivering the conservative agenda and reforms we so badly need as our state's next governor."

Meanwhile, former Rep. Connie Pillich announced that she has the support of the Cincinnati Building Trades in her Democratic primary contest.

"Connie Pillich is the proven fighter we need as our next governor. Born in the shadow of a steel mill, Connie knows what we face every day," Cincinnati Building Trades Executive Secretary Fred Lampe said. "She has an unrivaled record of standing up for working families, higher wages, and working to create good jobs. Connie has proven herself as the Democratic frontrunner in the race for governor and the Cincinnati Building Trades is proud to have her back."

Added Ms. Pillich: "I'm proud to be endorsed by the Cincinnati Building Trades because I'll never stop fighting for working families, good jobs, and better wages for workers. With the wind at our backs, our people-powered campaign is building more momentum everyday as we work to take Columbus back from the special interests."

Husted Appointment: Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the appointment of Marcella R. Bogenrife to the Madison County Board of Elections.

She was recommended for the post by the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee.

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

The state's four casinos showed significant gains in revenue last month compared to June, and the racinos also saw a big uptick in what they took home.

The casinos brought in \$69.9 million in July, up from \$64.1 million the prior month and from \$66.1 million in July 2016, according to revenue reports released Monday by the Casino Control Commission.

Video lottery terminal revenue at the seven racinos totaled \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year, up nearly \$6.5 million from where it was in June, the Ohio Lottery Commission reported.

Hollywood Columbus brought in the most money among casinos at \$18.9 million. That was up from \$17.7 million in June and just a bit above the \$18.6 million it brought in the previous July. The casino was highly dependent on slot machine revenue, with that accounting for \$13.5 million.

Hollywood Toledo also saw a big boost, rising to \$17.6 million from \$16.1 million the prior month. It was up more than \$1 million from \$16.5 million in July 2016. Like its sister casino in Columbus, the Toledo location leaned heavily on slot machines, to the tune of \$14.8 million.

JACK Cleveland raked in \$16.9 million, up from \$15 million in June and \$15.5 million the previous July. The casino was the most balanced between slots and table games, with slots accounting for \$9.1 million and table games \$7.7 million.

JACK Cincinnati brought in \$16.7 million, up from \$15.4 million both in June and in July 2016. Slot machines accounted for \$10.7 million of the casino's take.

Racinos: Among the state's racinos, Hard Rock Racino-Northfield Park saw the largest gain from June to July, up \$2.7 million to \$22.3 million in revenue from VLT machines.

Scioto Downs was the second-biggest gainer, up \$1.25 million to \$14.25 million in July.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway was up \$643,130 to \$8.3 million, while JACK Thistledown was up \$605,814 to \$10.1 million.

Belterra Park's revenue was up \$529,680 over June's at \$7.4 million. Revenue at Miami Valley Gaming was up \$428,657 to \$12.4 million, and Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course gained \$300,155 to \$9.8 million.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 9

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, August 21

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Wednesday, October 11

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29


Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 175 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Schiavoni, J.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

SB 176 ■ **MUNICIPAL TAXES (Jordan, K.)** To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation: Appoint Senator Joe Uecker and Senator Sean O'Brien

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Event Planner

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Volume #86, Report #160 -- Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more

things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider

said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools. Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's

performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roegner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roegner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.